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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT*

(Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992)

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* The present document is a preliminary version of the report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and is being issued in five volumes. The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and section I (Social and economic dimensions) of Agenda 21 are in volume I; section II (Conservation and management of resources for development) of Agenda 21 is in volume II; and sections III (Strengthening the role of major groups) and IV (Means of implementation) of Agenda 21 and the non-legally binding authoritative statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests are in volume III. The proceedings of the Conference and opening and closing statements are in volume IV. Statements made during the Summit Segment are in volume V.

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Chapter II

ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Date and place of the Conference

1. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 to 14 June 1992, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 45/211 of 21 December 1990 and its decision 46/468 of 13 April 1992. During that period the Conference held 19 plenary meetings.

B. Pre-Conference consultations

2. Pre-Conference consultations open to all States invited to participate in the Conference were held at Rio de Janeiro on 1 and 2 June 1992 to consider a number of procedural and organizational matters. These and other informal consultations were conducted under the chairmanship of His Excellency Professor Celso Lafer, Minister of External Relations of Brazil. The report on the consultations (A/CONF.151/L.1) was submitted to the Conference and its recommendations were accepted as the basis for the organization of the Conference's work.

C. Attendance

3. The following States and regional economic integration organizations were represented at the Conference:

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Angola
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahamas
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Belize
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia
Botswana
Brazil
Brunei Darussalam
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Canada
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
China
Colombia
Comoros
Congo
Cook Islands
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire

Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czechoslovakia
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Denmark
Djibouti
Dominica
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Estonia
European Economic Community
Ethiopia
Fiji
Finland
France
Gabon
Gambia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Grenada
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
Holy See
Honduras
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kiribati
Kuwait
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Latvia
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Micronesia (Federated States of)
Monaco
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nauru
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Samoa

San Marino
Sao Tome and Principe
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovenia
Solomon Islands
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Tuvalu
Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Yemen
Yugoslavia
Zaire
Zambia
Zimbabwe

4. The observer for Palestine attended the Conference.

5. The following associate members of the regional commissions were represented by observers:

American Samoa
Aruba
Hong Kong
Netherlands Antilles
Niue
Puerto Rico
United States Virgin Islands

6. The following national liberation movements were represented by observers:

African National Congress (South Africa)
Pan Africanist Congress of Azania

7. The following United Nations offices were represented at the Conference:

Department of Economic and Social Development
Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Convention on Biodiversity
Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change

8. The secretariats of the following regional commissions were represented at the Conference:

Economic Commission for Africa
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

9. The following United Nations bodies and programmes were also represented:

Economic and Social Council
International Court of Justice

United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
United Nations Development Fund for Women
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Population Fund
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office
United Nations University
World Food Programme
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Office of the
United Nations International Drug Control Programme
World Food Council
International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
United Nations Institute for Training and Research
United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

10. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented:

International Labour Organisation
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
International Civil Aviation Organization
World Health Organization
World Bank
International Monetary Fund
Universal Postal Union
International Telecommunication Union
World Meteorological Organization
International Maritime Organization
World Intellectual Property Organization
International Fund for Agricultural Development
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
International Atomic Energy Agency
General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

11. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers:

African Development Bank
African Timber Organization
Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation
Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee
Asian Development Bank
Caribbean Community and Common Market
Central American Bank for Economic Integration
Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific
Commonwealth Secretariat
Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
Council of Europe
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
European Investment Bank
Inter-American Development Bank
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
International Committee of the Red Cross
International Energy Agency
International Joint Commission
International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund
International Tropical Timber Organization
Latin American Economic System (SELA)
League of Arab States
OPEC Fund for International Development
Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
Organization of African Unity
Organization of American States
Organization of the Islamic Conference
Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
Permanent South Pacific Commission
South African Development Coordination Conference
South Asia Cooperative Environmental Programme
South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
South Pacific Forum Secretariat
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
World Tourism Organization

12. A large number of non-governmental organizations attended the Conference. The list of non-governmental organizations participating is given in document A/CONF.151/PC/L.28 and Add.1-14.

D. Opening of the Conference

13. The Conference was declared open by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

14. The Secretary-General requested the Conference to observe two minutes of silence on behalf of the Earth and added that upon the initiative of the

Secretary-General of the Conference two minutes of silence would also be observed at the same time all over the world.

15. The inaugural address made by the Secretary-General is contained in annex II below.

E. Election of the President

16. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 3 June, the Conference elected, by acclamation, as President of the Conference, His Excellency Mr. Fernando Collor, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

17. The inaugural address made by the President of the Conference is contained in annex II below.

Opening statements

18. Opening statements were made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Mr. Maurice Strong; His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, whose country had hosted the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment; Her Excellency Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland, Prime Minister of Norway, who spoke in her capacity as Chairman of the World Commission on Environment and Development; His Excellency Dr. Mario Soares, President of Portugal, who spoke at the personal invitation of the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil (see annex II below).

F. Messages from heads of State

19. The Conference received messages wishing it success from His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, President of the High State Committee of Algeria (A/CONF.151/20), and His Excellency Mr. Boris N. Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federation (A/CONF.151/18).

G. Adoption of the rules of procedure

20. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 3 June, the Conference adopted the provisional rules of procedure (A/CONF.151/2) recommended by the Preparatory Committee and approved by the General Assembly in paragraph 6 of its resolution 46/168 of 19 December 1991 and its decisions 46/469, 46/470 and 46/471 of 13 April 1992.

H. Adoption of the agenda

21. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 3 June, the Conference adopted as its agenda the provisional agenda (A/CONF.151/1) recommended by the Preparatory Committee and approved by the General Assembly in paragraph 6 of its

resolution 46/168 of 19 December 1991 and its decision 46/468 of 13 April 1992. The agenda as adopted was as follows:

1. Opening of the Conference.

2. Election of the President.

3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.

4. Adoption of the agenda.

5. Election of officers other than the President.

6. Organization of work, including establishment of the Main Committee of the Conference.

7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:

   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;

   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.

8. General debate.

9. Adoption of agreements on environment and development.

10. Signature of Conventions.

11. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

22. The Conference decided that items 1 to 8 and 11 of the agenda would be considered in plenary meeting, and items 9 and 10 by the Main Committee, which would submit its recommendations to the Conference.

I. Election of officers other than the President

23. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 3 June, the Conference elected Vice-Presidents from the following regional groups:

African States (12 Vice-Presidents): Benin, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire and Zimbabwe;

Eastern European States (4 Vice-Presidents): Poland, Romania, Russian Federation and Ukraine;

Latin American and Caribbean States (7 Vice-Presidents): Argentina, Barbados, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela;

Western European and other States (7 Vice-Presidents): Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

24. At the 4th plenary meeting, on 4 June, because 11 Asian States had been nominated at the pre-Conference consultations for the nine posts of Vice-President, Bangladesh and Japan withdrew their candidacies. The Conference thereupon completed its election of Vice-Presidents as follows:

Asian States (9 Vice-Presidents): China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Maldives, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia and Vanuatu.

25. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 3 June, the Conference also elected an ex officio Vice-President from the host country, His Excellency Professor Celso Lafer, Minister of External Relations of Brazil.

26. At the same meeting, the Conference elected Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi (Algeria) Rapporteur-General of the Conference.

27. Also at the same meeting, the Conference elected Mr. Tommy Koh (Singapore) Chairman of the Main Committee.

J. Organization of work, including the establishment of the Main Committee of the Conference

28. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 3 June, the Conference, in accordance with the recommendations of the pre-Conference consultations contained in paragraphs 18 to 20 of document A/CONF.151/L.1, approved its organization of work.

29. At the same meeting, the Conference took note of the recommendations of the pre-Conference consultations contained in paragraphs 22-25 of document A/CONF.151/L.1, which included information on the arrangements for the signing of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, the concluding events and the report of the Conference.

K. Appointment of members of the Credentials Committee

30. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 3 June, in conformity with rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Conference and the recommendation of the pre-Conference consultations contained in paragraph 21 of document A/CONF.151/L.1, the Conference established a Credentials Committee composed of Belgium, Belize, Chile, China, Lesotho, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Togo and the United States of America, on the understanding that if one of those States did not participate in the Conference, it would be replaced by another State from the same regional group.

Chapter III

GENERAL DEBATE

1. The general debate, which took place at the 2nd to 14th plenary meetings, from 3 to 11 June 1992, covered the range of topics considered by the Conference, including the adoption of agreements on environment and development (agenda item 9), which was more specifically the concern of the Main Committee. All speakers expressed their appreciation of the efforts made by the host Government and by the secretariat in preparing for the Conference.

2. The Conference was addressed by representatives of States, observers, specialized agencies, United Nations bodies, programmes and offices, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. Several children addressed the Conference on behalf of the world's children.

3. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 3 June, the Conference heard statements by the representatives of Pakistan (on behalf of the Group of 77), Portugal (on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community), the United States of America, Israel, Germany and Chile.

4. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization. The Commissioner for North/South Relations at the Commission of the European Communities, an intergovernmental organization, made a statement. The Mayor of Montreal, on behalf of the International Union of Local Authorities, a non-governmental organization, also made a statement.

5. The observer for Palestine made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

6. At the 3rd plenary meeting, on 4 June, the Conference heard statements by the representatives of the Holy See, Antigua and Barbuda, Italy, France and Burundi.

7. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the World Bank, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. The representative of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme made a statement. The representative of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, an intergovernmental organization, made a statement. A statement was also made by the representative of the Bahá'í International Community, a non-governmental organization.

8. The representative of Qatar spoke in exercise of the right of reply.

9. At the 4th plenary meeting, on 4 June, statements were made by the representatives of Norway, Brazil, Romania, the Marshall Islands, Botswana, Oman, Kiribati, Kazakhstan, Burkina Faso and Yemen.

10. At the same meeting, the representatives of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) made statements. The representatives of the International Maritime Organization, the International Labour Organisation and the World Tourism Organization made statements. Statements were also made by the representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: the Inter-American Development Bank, the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee and the International Energy Agency.

11. At the same meeting, the observer for the Netherlands Antilles, an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, made a statement.

12. At the 5th plenary meeting on 5 June, statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia, Mozambique, Zambia, Belize, the Sudan, Thailand, Austria, Ghana and India.

13. At the same meeting, the representatives of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (on behalf of the five United Nations regional commissions) made statements. A statement was made by the representative of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund, an intergovernmental organization. A statement was also made by the representative of the Society for International Development, a non-governmental organization.

14. At the 6th plenary meeting, on 5 June, statements were made by the representatives of Iceland, Paraguay, Japan, the Netherlands, Egypt, Jordan, Poland, Cuba, the Republic of Moldova, the Niger and Barbados

15. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: the European Investment Bank, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and the International Tropical Timber Organization. A statement was also made by the representative of the Business Council for Sustainable Development, a non-governmental organization.

16. At the 7th plenary meeting, on 8 June, statements were made by the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania, Sweden, China, Morocco, Uruguay, Bahrain, Namibia, Argentina and Zimbabwe.

17. At the same meeting, the representatives of the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Development Fund for Women made statements. The representative of the International Monetary Fund made a statement. A statement was also made by the representative of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a non-governmental organization.

18. At the 8th plenary meeting, on 8 June, statements were made by the representatives of Greece, the Russian Federation, Turkey, Ecuador, Mongolia, Guinea-Bissau, Chad, Guyana, Malta, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Cameroon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Benin, Bolivia, Estonia (on behalf of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania), Sierra Leone and Vanuatu.

19. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Nations Children's Fund made a statement. The representative of the Latin American Economic System (SELA), an intergovernmental organization, made a statement. Statements were also made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the Global Legislators' Organization for a Balanced Environment.

20. At the 9th plenary meeting, on 9 June, statements were made by the representatives of Mauritius, Mauritania, Myanmar, Hungary, Denmark, Yugoslavia, Slovenia and Côte d'Ivoire.

21. At the same meeting, the representatives of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women made statements. The representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations made statements: the OPEC Fund for International Development and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. A statement was also made by the representative of the Women's Environment and Development Organization, a non-governmental organization.

22. At the 10th plenary meeting, on 9 June, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka (in his capacity as Chairman of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation), Tunisia, Belarus, Nauru, Iraq, Belgium, Malawi, Guatemala, Djibouti, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Gabon, the Philippines and Kenya.

23. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Nations University made a statement. Statements were also made by the representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: the International Joint Commission (United States and Canada) and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. A statement was also made by the representative of the International Council of Scientific Unions, a non-governmental organization.

24. The representative of Yugoslavia made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

25. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 10 June, statements were made by the representatives of Finland, Luxembourg, Zaire, the Federated States of Micronesia, Colombia, Australia, Nigeria, Switzerland and Spain.

26. At the same meeting, the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations made a statment. The representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations made statements: the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Asian Development Bank and the African Development Bank. A statement was also made by the representative of the International Chamber of Commerce, a non-governmental organization.

27. At the 12th plenary meeting, on 10 June, statements were made by the representatives of Bangladesh, Ireland, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Rwanda, Cook

Islands, Liberia, Costa Rica, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Croatia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Gambia and Cyprus.

28. At the same meeting, the observer for American Samoa, an associate member of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the observer for Puerto Rico, an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, made statements. The observer for the African National Congress of South Africa also made a statement.

29. Also at the same meeting, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization made statements. The representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations made statements: the League of Arab States and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme. Statements were also made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: the Comité Intertribal, the International Association of Universities and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers.

30. The representative of Yugoslavia made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

31. At the 13th plenary meeting, on 11 June, statements were made by the representatives of the Republic of Korea, Seychelles, Canada, New Zealand, Bhutan, Ukraine and Nicaragua. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

32. At the same meeting, the representative of the Department of Economic and Social Development of the United Nations Secretariat made a statement. Statements were also made by the representatives of the World Meteorological Organization and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations made statements: the Organization of American States and the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation. A statement was made by the representative of the Kenyan Youth Organization, a non-governmental organization.

33. At the 14th plenary meeting, on 11 June, statements were made by the representatives of the Comoros, Peru, Suriname, El Salvador, Sri Lanka, Fiji, the Congo, Honduras, Singapore, Qatar, Czechoslovakia, Trinidad and Tobago, Viet Nam, Venezuela, Lebanon and Afghanistan.

34. At the same meeting, the representatives of the International Court of Justice and the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office made statements. The representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations made statements: the Commonwealth Secretariat and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Statements were also made by the following non-governmental organizations: the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the Greenbelt Movement.

35. Also at the same meeting, several children made statements on behalf of the world's children.

Chapter IV

REPORT OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE AND ACTION TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE

A. Report of the Main Committee

1. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 3 June 1992, the Conference approved the organization of its work as set out in document A/CONF.151/3, and decided to allocate agenda items 9 (Adoption of agreements on environment and development) and 10 (Signature of Conventions) to the Main Committee, which was to submit its recommendations to the Conference.

2. The Main Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference on Agenda 21 (A/CONF.151/4 (Part I, Part II and Corr.1, Part III and Part IV and Corr.1));

(b) Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference on the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (A/CONF.151/5);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference containing the non-legally binding authoritative statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests (A/CONF.151/6);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting to the Conference the Tokyo Declaration on Financing Global Environment and Development, adopted by the Eminent Persons' Meeting on Financing Global Environment and Development, Tokyo, 15-17 April 1992 (A/CONF.151/7);

(e) Report of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change, Mr. Jean Ripert (France), on behalf of the Committee (A/CONF.151/8);

(f) Letter dated 4 June 1992 from the head of the delegation of Chile to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference (A/CONF.151/9);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on protection and preservation of the marine environment (A/CONF.151/10);

(h) Letter dated 3 June 1992 from the President of the State Council of Viet Nam to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/CONF.151/11);

(i) Note verbale dated 5 May 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/CONF.151/12);

(j) Letter dated 20 May 1992 from the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/CONF.151/13);

(k) Letter dated 30 May 1992 from the Minister of External Relations of Brazil to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/CONF.151/14);

(l) Letter dated 21 May 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/CONF.151/15);

(m) Note verbale dated 28 May 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Barbados to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/CONF.151/16);

(n) Letter dated 9 June 1992 from the deputy head of the delegation of the Russian Federation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/CONF.151/18);

(o) Letter dated 10 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/CONF.151/19);

(p) Note verbale dated 9 June 1992 from the Embassy of Algeria to the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/CONF.151/20);

(q) Letter dated 15 May 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/CONF.151/21);

(r) Letter dated 9 June 1992 from the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development of Chile to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/CONF.151/22);

(s) Letter dated 12 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/CONF.151/23);

(t) Letter dated 11 June 1992 from the Minister for Environment and Public Works of Greece to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/CONF.151/24);

(u) Note verbale dated 12 June 1992 from the Embassy of Morocco to the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/CONF.151/25);

(v) Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference containing a list of institutional proposals arising from the various sectoral and intersectoral components of Agenda 21 (A/CONF.151/CRP.1);

(w) Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on the work of its fourth session (A/CONF.151/PC/128 and Corr.1);

(x) Report of the Secretary-General on further substantive follow-up of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 by Governments and organizations of the United Nations system (A/47/121-E/1992/15);

(y) Letter dated 8 May 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/47/203).

3. The Chairman of the Main Committee was Tommy Koh (Singapore), who was elected by acclamation at the 1st plenary meeting of the Conference, on 3 June.

4. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 3 and 4 June, the Main Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Vice-Chairmen: Bedrich Moldan (Czechoslovakia)
Nabil A. Elaraby (Egypt)
J. G. W. Alders (Netherlands)
Vicente Sanchez (Chile)

5. At the 4th meeting, on 5 June, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Main Committee agreed to appoint Bedrich Moldan (Czechoslovakia) as Rapporteur, in addition to his functions as Vice-Chairman.

6. At the 1st meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Main Committee decided to establish eight contact groups and appoint eight coordinators on the following issues:

(a) Financial resources and mechanisms: Coordinator, Rubens Ricupero (Brazil);

(b) Transfer of technology: Coordinator, J. G. W. Alders (Netherlands);

(c) Atmosphere: Coordinator, Bo Kjellén (Sweden);

(d) Forest principles: Coordinator, Charles Liburd (Guyana);

(e) Biodiversity and biotechnology: Coordinator, Vicente Sanchez (Chile);

(f) Freshwater resources: Coordinator, Bukar Shaib (Nigeria);

(g) International legal instruments and mechanisms: Coordinator, Nabil A. Elaraby (Egypt);

(h) International institutional arrangements: Coordinator, Razail Ismail (Malaysia).

7. Also at the 1st meeting, the Committee heard statements by the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Convention on Biological Diversity.

8. The Main Committee considered item 9 at its 2nd to 8th meetings, from 3 to 6 and on 10 June. In accordance with decisions 4/4 A to I of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/CONF.151/PC/128 and Corr.1, annex I), the Main Committee reviewed the draft chapters of Agenda 21 (A/CONF.151/4 (Part I, Part II and Corr.1, Part III, and Part IV and Corr.1)), which had been approved by the Preparatory Committee, as orally amended and subject to further consideration of the bracketed parts.

9. The Main Committee approved the amendments to the text of Agenda 21 (A/CONF.151/L.3/Add.1-6, Add.6/Corr.1, Add.7-12, Add.12/Corr.1, Add.13-40, 43 and 44) made on the basis of the informal consultations held by the contact groups and recommended to the Conference that it adopt the text as amended.

10. At the 8th meeting, on 10 June, in accordance with Preparatory Committee decision 4/10, the Main Committee also reviewed the proposal by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee on the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (A/CONF.151/5). On the proposal of its Chairman, the Main Committee approved, by acclamation, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and recommended it to the Conference for adoption. The Declaration was subsequently issued in document A/CONF.151/5/Rev.1.

11. At the same meeting, in accordance with Preparatory Committee decision 4/7, the Main Committee reviewed the note by the Secretary-General of the Conference containing the non-legally binding authoritative statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests (A/CONF.151/6). The Coordinator of the contact group on forest principles, Mr. Charles Liburd (Guyana), introduced amendments to the statement of principles, which had been agreed upon during the informal consultations held by the contact group. The Main Committee approved those amendments and other amendments proposed orally and submitted its recommendations to the Conference. The statement of principles, as amended, was subsequently issued as document A/CONF.151/6/Rev.1.

12. The report of the Main Committee was issued in documents A/CONF.151/L.3 and Add.1-6, Add.6/Corr.1, Add.7-12, Add.12/Corr.1 and Add.13-44.

B. Action taken by the Conference

13. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 14 June, the Conference had before it a draft resolution (A/CONF.151/L.4/Rev.1) entitled "Adoption of texts on environment and development", sponsored by the delegation of Brazil. Annexed to that draft resolution were the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21 and the non-legally binding authoritative statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

14. The Conference adopted the draft resolution. For the final text, see chapter I, resolution 1.

15. Before the draft resolution was adopted, the representatives of the following States made comments or expessed reservations: United States of America, Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Kuwait, Philippines, Pakistan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Colombia, France, Portugal (on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community) and Mauritius. The observer for Palestine made a statement.

16. The Government of the United States of America submitted the following written statement:

Rio Declaration

Principle 3

The United States does not, by joining consensus on the Rio Declaration, change its long-standing opposition to the so-called "right to development". Development is not a right. On the contrary, development is a goal we all hold, which depends for its realization in large part on the promotion and protection of the human rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The United States understands and accepts the thrust of principle 3 to be that economic development goals and objectives must be pursued in such a way that the development and environmental needs of present and future generations are taken into account. The United States cannot agree to, and would disassociate itself from, any interpretation of principle 3 that accepts a "right to development", or otherwise goes beyond that understanding.

Principle 7

The United States understands and accepts that principle 7 highlights the special leadership role of the developed countries, based on our industrial development, our experience with environmental protection policies and actions, and our wealth, technical expertise and capabilities.

The United States does not accept any interpretation of principle 7 that would imply a recognition or acceptance by the United States of any international obligations or liabilities, or any diminution in the responsibilities of developing countries.

Principle 12

The United States understands that, in certain situations, trade measures may provide an effective and appropriate means of addressing environmental concerns, including long-term sustainable forest management concerns and environmental concerns outside national jurisdiction, subject to certain disciplines.

Principle 23

The United States understands that nothing in this Declaration prejudices or predetermines the status of any territories under occupation or the natural resources that appertain to such territories. The United States further understands that this Declaration does not prejudge negotiations to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, including issues relating to natural resources and their management. The United States also understands that this Declaration does not affect the rights and duties of occupying Powers under the laws of war.

Agenda 21 and authoritative statement of forest principles

Trade measures taken for environmental purposes

The United States accepts the references in Agenda 21 and the forest principles to trade measures taken for environmental purposes subject to the same understanding stated for Principle 12 of the Rio Declaration.

Technology cooperation

The United States strongly believes that adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights is an essential component of any international technology cooperation effort aimed at environmental protection and/or development assistance. Such protection is essential to provide incentives for innovation in the development of environmentally sound and appropriate technologies, and to facilitate access to and transfer and dissemination of such technologies.

The United States understands the provisions of the forest principles and Agenda 21 regarding access to and transfer of technology to mean that, in the case of technologies and know-how subject to intellectual property rights, such access and transfer shall be on freely negotiated, mutually agreed terms that recognize and are consistent with the adequate and effective protection of those rights.

Biotechnology

The United States understands that biotechnology is in no way an intrinsically unsafe process. The United States accepts to consider the need for and feasibility of internationally agreed guidelines on safety in biotechnology releases, and to consider studying the feasibility of guidelines which could facilitate national legislation on liability and compensation, subject to this understanding.

Sharing of benefits derived from biological and genetic resources

The United States understands the references to appropriate measures for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from biological and genetic resources in Agenda 21 to mean such measures as may be mutually agreed between the sources and users of these resources, under conditions that recognize and are fully consistent with the adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights. In addition, references to the sharing of benefits derived from the use of biological and genetic resources are understood to be without regard to the source of such resources.

Right to socio-economic development on a sustainable basis

The United States understands the words "right to socio-economic development on a sustainable basis" in the forest principles on the same basis as stated for Principle 3 of the Rio Declaration.

ODA targets

The United States is not among those countries that have affirmed an overseas development assistance target. Such a target would detract from the more important issues of the effectiveness and quality of aid and the policies in the recipient country. The United States emphasizes that, with respect to chapter 33, paragraph 15 [paragraph 33.13 of the final text], it is one of the "other developed countries" that "agree to make their best efforts to increase" their level of ODA, "in line with their support for reform efforts in developing countries". The United States has traditionally been the largest aid donor in volume terms and will continue to provide high-quality aid on a case-by-case basis, in a way that encourages reform efforts in developing countries.

17. The Government of Saudi Arabia submitted the following written comments:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has participated in the deliberations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development with a view to achieving comprehensive, balanced and fair conclusions. The conclusions reached do not ensure the required comprehensiveness, fairness and balance between environment and development. Serious gaps and imbalances still remain in many sections of Agenda 21 and the authoritative statement for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

The following are examples of some serious unacceptable gaps and imbalances:

1. Agenda 21:

(a) The drafting of Agenda 21 promotes the approach of ignoring the great importance of scientific certainty as a basis for any international measure necessary to tackle the issue of the atmosphere and climate change;

(b) Consequently, the drafting would encourage the adoption of measures that would lead, in our considered opinion, to serious imbalance in the world economy and the economies of developing countries;

(c) The marked imbalance in dealing with questions relevant to the interrelated issues of environment and energy would lead to discrimination against oil, a clear observable conclusion of the draft;

(d) The promotion of the utilization of unsafe and environmentally unsound technology and energy sources, such as nuclear energy;

(e) The promotion of economically non-cost-effective measures;

(f) The imbalance in tackling sinks;

2. The authoritative statement for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests:

The international omission of the basic principles that recognize the important role of forests in preserving the ecological balance, in particular the role in carbon fixation.

18. The Government of Argentina submitted the following written comments:

The Government of Argentina wishes to emphasize the importance of the objective stated in paragraph 9.23 (b) of Agenda 21 and the related statements in the programmes on reducing health risks from environmental pollution and hazards (para. 6.42 (i)); the evaluation of the effects of ultraviolet radiation on plants and animals caused by the depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer (paras. 14.102 and 14.104), and addressing critical uncertainties for the management of the marine environment and climate change (paras. 17.98, 17.100 (e) and 17.111). The Government also wishes to point out that it considers paragraphs 9.24 (d) and 17.107 as referring to the concept of reparation and that "appropriate remedial measures" include adequate compensation.

The Government also wishes to state that the intergovernmental conference referred to in paragraph 17.49 (e) of Agenda 21 should consider fishing on the high seas and straddling fish stocks and highly

migratory fish stocks that are found on the high seas in the area adjacent to the EEZ. The conference should give special consideration to the interests of coastal States, as reflected in article 63.2 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

19. The Government of Kuwait submitted the following written statement:

Agenda 21 is an agreed set of recommendations addressing global issues on the environment and development and thus should reflect the concerns of all States and not call for actions that may be discriminatory in nature, result in damaging the social, economic and other national interests of any State, or limit its social and economic development prospects. Agenda 21 does not meet these criteria in some of the major areas, for example:

1. Chapter 9 fails to conform with the spirit and objectives of this Conference, as it neglects to explicitly affirm that all sources of energy must be environmentally safe and sound, and it advocates the use of certain types of energy sources and technologies without specifically qualifying them to be environmentally safe and sound.

2. That the economic viability of energy technologies and energy sources is an essential condition for achieving the maximum benefits from the use of all resources has not been duly emphasized. This approach encourages economic inefficiency and will be detrimental to sustainable development.

3. The promotion of increased use of economic measures and market instruments as well as pricing will lead to economic and trade distortion, and discriminatory practices against some sources of energy. This will be damaging to the global economy. We believe the appropriate policies and measures should be left to Governments and not specified in Agenda 21, particularly chapters 4, 8 and 9.

4. In order to minimize the adverse impact on the atmosphere, it is essential to give equal consideration and treatment to sources, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases. Unfortunately, Agenda 21 overemphasizes sources and fails to adequately address sinks and reservoirs. We believe that it is of utmost importance to promote sustainable management, preservation and enhancement of all sinks and reservoirs. In this context, there is an urgent need to limit and reduce the rate of deforestation. We feel that these issues have not been adequately addressed in Agenda 21, particularly chapter 9.

5. There is an overemphasis on the increase in use of new and renewable energy systems and sources. The increasing needs for energy in developing countries will be best served by promoting the best available sources of energy that are environmentally safe and sound and economically viable, especially those which have greater potential than new and renewable sources.

6. In dealing with the subject of climate change, chapter 9 fails to adequately address the social and economic consequences of mitigation and of response measures to potential climate change. In order to avoid costly and premature measures, it is prudent to promote greater understanding of all relevant issues relating to climate change.

For these reasons, the State of Kuwait registers its reservations on chapters 4, 8 and 9.

20. The Government of the Philippines submitted the following written statement:

In so far as the Philippine delegation is concerned, military establishments referred to in subparagraph 23 (h) [paragraph 20.22 (h) of the final text] of chapter 20 of Agenda 21 include foreign military facilities under the full operational control of Governments, in particular those not concerned by agreements with provisions specific to the treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes.

21. The Government of France submitted the following written statement:

With regard to chapter 26 of Agenda 21 on indigenous people, the French delegation wishes to state solemnly, as it did at the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, that in respect of the specific rules and measures proposed for indigenous people in this document and in other chapters of Agenda 21 and in accordance with article 2 of the French Constitution, all French citizens are equal under the laws of the Republic, without distinction as to origin, race or religion.

This statement also applies to the corresponding principle in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and in the statement of forest principles.

22. The delegation of Palestine submitted the following written statement:

The delegation of Palestine wishes to put on record our great appreciation for the inclusion in paragraph 1.5 [paragraph 1.6 of the final text] of Agenda 21 of the following phrase: "in full respect of all the principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development". This, to the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation, signifies, in particular, the principles in paragraph 23 of the Declaration and full recognition of the applicability of international instruments such as the fourth Geneva Convention, relative to peoples under foreign occupation.

Chapter V

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

1. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 3 June 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, appointed a Credentials Committee, based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its forty-sixth session, consisting of the following nine members: Belgium, Belize, Chile, China, Lesotho, Russian Federation, Singapore, Togo and United States of America.

2. The Credentials Committee held one meeting, on 9 June 1992.

3. Mr. Michel Delfosse (Belgium) was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee.

4. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General dated 8 June 1992 on the status of credentials of representatives participating in the Conference. Additional information on credentials received by the Secretary-General after the issuance of the memorandum was provided to the Committee by its Secretary.

5. As noted in paragraph 1 of the memorandum of the Secretary-General, as updated by the additional information received, formal credentials issued by the head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as provided for in rule 3 of the rules of procedure, had been received by the Secretary-General, for the representatives of the following 95 States participating in the Conference: Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Norway, Peru, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe. In addition, in the case of the European Economic Community, credentials had been submitted for its representatives by the President of the European Commission.

6. As noted in paragraph 2 of the memorandum, as updated, information concerning the appointment of representatives participating in the Conference had been communicated by means of facsimile or cable or in the form of letters or notes verbale from ministries, permanent missions to the United Nations or other government offices or authorities, by the following 83 States participating in the Conference: Albania, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Monaco, Mongolia, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Suriname, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Vanuatu, Zaire and Zambia.

7. The representative of the United States stated that his delegation did not believe that the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia existed. Furthermore, his delegation did not consider Serbia-Montenegro to be the continuation of, or sole successor to, the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. However, his delegation would be willing to accept Yugoslavia at the present Conference with a reservation to the effect that Serbia-Montenegro was not entitled to assume the seat of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in international organizations, including the United Nations. However, the United States believed that the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly were the appropriate bodies to resolve the issue of the membership of Serbia-Montenegro in the United Nations. Thus, while not making an objection in the present forum, the United States delegation wished to register its reservation.

8. The representative of the Russian Federation stated that his delegation also believed that the question of the membership of the United Nations was within the exclusive competence of the Security Council and the General Assembly. His delegation was ready to recognize the credentials of Yugoslavia for the purposes of the present Conference.

9. The Chairman proposed that, taking into account the reservation that had been expressed, the Committee accept the credentials of all the representatives mentioned in the memorandum of the Secretary-General, on the understanding that formal credentials for representatives referred to in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's memorandum, would be communicated to the Secretary-General as soon as possible. The following draft resolution was proposed by the Chairman for adoption by the Committee:

The Credentials Committee,

Having examined the credentials of the representatives to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the memorandum of the Secretary-General dated 8 June 1992,

Taking into account the reservation expressed during the debate,

Accepts the credentials of the representatives concerned.

10. The draft resolution was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

11. Subsequently, the Chairman proposed that the Committee recommend to the Conference the adoption of a draft resolution (see para. 12 below). The proposal was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Recommendation of the Credentials Committee

12. The Credentials Committee recommends to the Conference the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"Credentials of representatives to the Conference"

"The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

"Approves the report of the Credentials Committee."

Action taken by the Conference

13. At the 13th plenary meeting, on 11 June 1992, the Conference considered the report of the Credentials Committee (A/CONF.151/17).

14. The representative of Portugal, speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community, stated that the Community and its members had not accepted the automatic continuity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in international organizations, including the United Nations, and reserved their position on the question. The representative of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia made a statement in reply.

15. The Conference then adopted the draft resolution recommended by the Committee. For the final text, see chapter I, resolution 3.

Chapter VI

SUMMIT SEGMENT OF THE CONFERENCE

The Summit Segment of the Conference was held on 12 and 13 June 1992. One hundred and two heads of State or Government or their personal representatives made statements. The statements are reproduced in volume V of the present report.

Chapter VII

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE

1. The Rapporteur-General introduced the report of the Conference (A/CONF.151/L.2 and Add.1-3) at the 19th plenary meeting, on 14 June 1992.

2. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted the draft report and authorized the Rapporteur-General to complete the report, in conformity with the practice of the United Nations, with a view to its submission to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

3. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution (A/CONF.151/L.5) expressing the Conference's gratitude to the host country. Subsequently, Australia (on behalf of the Western European and other States) and the Russian Federation (on behalf of the Eastern European States) made statements and joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

4. The Conference then adopted the draft resolution. For the final text, see chapter I, resolution 2.

Closure of the Conference

5. At the 19th plenary meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan (on behalf of the Asian States), the Russian Federation (on behalf of the Eastern European States), Mexico (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States), Australia (on behalf of the Western European and other States), India, the United States of America, the Syrian Arab Republic (on behalf of the Executive Office of the Arab Ministers in charge of Environment and Development), Japan, China, Canada (also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand), Croatia, the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the African States), Tunisia, Malaysia, Lebanon and Iceland (on behalf also of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden).

6. After statements had been made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Conference, the President of the Conference made a concluding statement and declared the Conference closed.

Annex I

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Symbol	Title or description
A/CONF.151/1 and Corr.1	Provisional agenda
A/CONF.151/2	Provisional rules of procedure: note by the Secretary-General of the Conference
A/CONF.151/3	Organization of work, including establishment of the Main Committee of the Conference: note by the Secretariat
A/CONF.151/4 (Part I, Part II and Corr.1, Part III and Part IV and Corr.1)	Adoption of agreements on environment and development: Agenda 21: note by the Secretary-General of the Conference
A/CONF.151/5	Rio Declaration on Environment and Development: note by the Secretary-General of the Conference
A/CONF.151/5/Rev.1	The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
A/CONF.151/6	Non-legally binding authoritative statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests: note by the Secretary-General of the Conference
A/CONF.151/6/Rev.1	Non-legally binding authoritative statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests
A/CONF.151/7	Adoption of agreements on environment and development: note by the Secretary-General of the Conference
A/CONF.151/8	Report of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change, Mr. Jean Ripert (France) on behalf of the Committee

Symbol	Title or description
A/CONF.151/9	Letter dated 4 June 1992 from the head of the delegation of Chile to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference
A/CONF.151/10	Protection and preservation of the marine environment: report of the Secretary-General
A/CONF.151/11	Letter dated 3 June 1992 from the President of the State Council of Viet Nam to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
A/CONF.151/12	Note verbale dated 5 May 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
A/CONF.151/13	Letter dated 20 May 1992 from the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
A/CONF.151/14	Letter dated 30 May 1992 from the Minister of External Relations of Brazil to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
A/CONF.151/15	Letter dated 21 May 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
A/CONF.151/16	Note verbale dated 28 May 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Barbados to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General
A/CONF.151/17	Report of the Credentials Committee
A/CONF.151/18	Letter dated 9 June 1992 from the deputy head of the delegation of the Russian Federation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

Symbol	Title or description
A/CONF.151/19	Letter dated 10 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
A/CONF.151/20	Note verbale dated 9 June 1992 from the Embassy of Algeria to the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
A/CONF.151/21	Letter dated 15 May 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
A/CONF.151/22	Letter dated 9 June 1992 from the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and from the Minister of Housing and Urban Development of Chile to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
A/CONF.151/23	Letter dated 12 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
A/CONF.151/24	Letter dated 11 June 1992 from the Minister for Environment and Public Works of Greece to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
A/CONF.151/25	Note verbale dated 12 June 1992 from the Embassy of Morocco to the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
A/CONF.151/L.1	Report of the pre-Conference consultations held at Riocentro Conference Centre
A/CONF.151/L.2 and Add.1-3	Draft report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

Symbol	Title or description
A/CONF.151/L.3 and Add.1-6, Add.6/Corr.1, Add.7-12, Add.12/Corr.1 and Add.13-44	Report of the Main Committee
A/CONF.151/L.4/Rev.1	Adoption of agreements on environment and development: draft resolution submitted by Brazil
A/CONF.151/L.5	Expression of gratitude to the host country: draft resolution submitted by China and Pakistan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77)
A/CONF.151/L.6	Draft chapter 33 of Agenda 21
A/CONF.151/CRP.1	List of institutional proposals arising from the various sectoral and intersectoral components of Agenda 21: note by the Secretary-General of the Conference
A/CONF.151/INF/1	Information for participants
A/CONF.151/INF/2 and Add.1-7	Provisional list of delegations to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
A/CONF.151/INF/3 and Add.1-4	List of documents circulated for information
A/CONF.151/PC/128 and Corr.1	Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on the work of its fourth session
A/47/121-E/1992/15	Further substantive follow-up of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 by Governments and organizations of the United Nations system: report of the Secretary-General
A/47/203	Letter dated 8 May 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Annex II

OPENING STATEMENTS

Statement by Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General of the United Nations

In the subjects we shall discuss during the Conference which I have the great honour to open at this moment, nothing could be more risky than to succumb to the power of words and to limit ourselves to that. Nothing would be more dangerous than to believe or to give the impression that just because things are said, the challenges have been met. And yet I do not think that I am succumbing to the power of words in saying that this is an historic moment. Historic - yes, I believe that it is, and I would put forward three reasons for this - each one in itself capable of moving us greatly as this Conference, which the entire world will follow, begins.

Let us try to grasp, first of all, what this Earth Summit means: here we have a gathering of nations, united before us, represented at the highest level by their leaders, supported by an exceptional rallying of peoples, and determined to reflect - and then act - in concert to protect their planet. This meeting is proof that we have understood how very fragile our Earth - and the life it shelters - is: this is the first reason, then, why it is historic and reflects a radical change in the way man looks at himself.

In the past, the individual was surrounded by nature so abundant that its immensity was terrifying. This was still true at the beginning of this century. All victories have been victories over nature, from the wild beasts menacing the cavemen to the distances separating communities. The wild beasts have been conquered, and so have the distances, and taking both these conquests into account, we can say that all of science has grown out of the conflict between man and nature, with man moving forward by gradually taming an infinite nature.

Yet, "the time of the finite world" has come, a world in which we are "under house arrest": what this means is simply that nature no longer exists in the classic sense of the term, and that henceforth nature lies within the hands of man. It also means that man has triumphed over his environment, a triumph nevertheless fraught with danger. Finally, it means that there are no more cases to discover, no more "new frontiers", and that every new triumph over nature will in fact be a triumph over ourselves. Progress, then, is not necessarily compatible with life; we may no longer take the logic of the infinite for granted. It is this great epistemological break which the Earth Summit may ultimately symbolize for historians.

This meeting is historic for a second, no less exalting, reason: we are looking at a time-frame that extends far beyond the span of our individual lives. The reflection and, especially the action for which we are to lay the political foundation here will not be undertaken for ourselves, or even for

our contemporaries. For we can still waste the planet's resources, at our current pace, for a few decades more. We can still live, for a few years or a few decades more, with the acid rain that is only gradually destroying our forests, lakes, works of architecture and even ourselves; we can stand it if the climate heats up by a few degrees, if the biological diversity of our planet diminishes, if the pollution of our waters continues, if the desertification of the planet accelerates - we will always have enough forests, enough water, enough natural resources. But we must realize that one day, when we as individuals have ceased to exist, it will no longer be possible to let things go on, or let things go, and that, ultimately, the storm will break on the heads of future generations. For them, it will be too late.

What we do here, then, we do for our grandchildren and, beyond, for future generations. Our presence here is proof that we intend to give precedence to time in the political sense - that is, history - over our own personal history. We are here for the long term, which is calculated in decades and centuries. This is the noblest aspect of our collective efforts at Rio.

This moment is historic for a third reason, which derives from the other two and has to do with the United Nations, which it is my honour to head. It is a huge task which the Organization, together with all those who have placed their hope in universalism, is tackling here. Will we be able to show that men are capable of rising above the conflicts of a different era to work together to tackle the immense challenges that have been handed them? "The worst is always certain", quipped the Spanish writer Unamuno. This might be true if we were to leave in a week's time without having taken the difficult but crucial decisions that are expected of us. We must therefore go beyond the norm and bring our system to a higher plane. By whatever means, we are in a sense condemned here to moving closer, even if by only a step, to the virtuous planet, "al-ma'mura al-fadila", anticipated by the Islamic philosopher Al-Farabi.

I am inclined towards optimism: first, when I think of the positive developments that have taken place in international cooperation in the past few years; then, when I think of all the efforts, imagination and enthusiasm our Organization has managed to elicit in the preparation of this meeting; and, finally, by the extent of the influence that this meeting has. The United Nations has come a long way. In the time since Stockholm, where at least some of the issues that we will deal with today were discussed, the United Nations has acquired experience and produced unparalleled talent, studies and assessments which have had an impact in virtually every part of the world. Remember, in 1972 we were pioneers. Let us continue to be pioneers by building on the achievements and lessons we have learned from our earlier efforts. I am thinking in particular of those undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme, but also of those coming from a great many organizations within the United Nations system, which have endeavoured to cooperate closely, and from non-governmental organizations and independent commissions, often bringing together eminent persons, and the unprecedented

amount of preparatory work, conferences of regional or linguistic groups, seminars, reports, articles and books which have paved the way for our efforts throughout the world. All this energy has converged on Rio; in this context, allow me to express appreciation to Brazil, our host country, and to its Government and its warm-hearted people who are extending to us their vibrant hospitality. Since the beginning of the preparatory work, they have shown a sincere and ardent desire for the success of our Conference.

Unfortunately, I cannot thank everyone. However, let me at least mention Mrs. Brundtland's report, whose theoretical advances have been widely noted. Let me mention also the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, Ambassador Tommy Koh, whose diplomatic talents have once again proved valuable, and Maurice Strong and his team, who have undertaken a kind of "thirteenth labour of Hercules". Such enthusiasm and devotion incline me towards optimism: "Rio - an oversized job" was the headline in one review. Oversized, yes, like the challenge to which it is responding. For we are condemned to heroism: if we succeed, the United Nations will have undergone trial by fire; the Organization will have inscribed its name permanently in history. However, before I turn to the action that is set out in the agenda, I should first like to recapitulate the theoretical advances which, it seems to me, have come to be generally accepted.

I do not know whether ideas make the world go round; in any event, nothing is possible without them. We must begin, then, by an act of collective reflection, which is also part of the work of the United Nations, and we must equip ourselves with courage, for reflection entails a risk: the risk that we will be forced to give up myths, comfortable ways of thinking, sacred economic principles. Our reflection has a common denominator, which is the central concept of our Conference, and that is development. Development! The term has enjoyed unprecedented glory. Yet, it has been through the preparatory work for this Conference that the term has taken on its full meaning. We now know that if we prove unable to expand the concept of development further, we will find ourselves confronted with a paradox that would make us smile if it did not mask so much suffering and danger: the Earth is simultaneously suffering from underdevelopment and from overdevelopment.

We must therefore expand the meaning of the term "development" as we know it in the light of scientific developments and the challenges that face us today. I believe that in the future, this expansion will take place in two directions: the first is towards what we now call "sustainable development"; the second is towards what I propose to call "planetary development". Once again, in my mind these concepts concern the entire world, North and South, East and West.

Let us take sustainable development first: it may be defined as development that meets the needs of the present as long as resources are renewed or, in other words, that does not compromise the development of future generations. This is a new way of looking at development, one which takes into account its persistence. It forces us to realize that, just as the

countries of the South face problems in protecting the environment, the countries of the North must likewise deal with the problems of overdevelopment. The countries of the North, like the countries of the South, fail to respect the spirit of sustainable development. We know, for example, that global warming is caused by the gases which constitute the very underpinnings of industrialized societies. This means that the lifestyle of rich countries is ecologically unsound, and that their development cannot, at the present stage, be considered "sustainable". We also know that it is in the poor countries that the depletion of resources is most serious, given that those countries are obliged to overwork the natural resources on which their survival depends. They are compelled to sacrifice their future to eke out a precarious daily existence in the present.

Thus, one point must be clearly stated: one cannot protect a natural resource by denying its use to those who depend on it for survival: the link between environmental protection and poverty does not only concern large-scale production, but also everyday life, particularly that of women, who have to provide for domestic needs, for water or wood. That is why, in many countries action against poverty helps protect the environment.

Let us stop, then, making a distinction between two aspects of the same question - economy on the one hand and ecology on the other. Any ecological disaster is an economic disaster. Moreover, the two words have a common Greek root, "oiko", meaning "home". Mr. Gorbachev suggested that Europe should become a "common home". Yet, the entire universe is our "common home". Ecology comes from the Greek "oikos-logos", that is, "the science of the home"; economy comes from the Greek "oikonomia", that is, "good management of the home". They amount to the same thing; ecology is, by its very nature, part of economy.

This principle has both micro- and macroeconomic implications. It has consequences for pricing in particular: since environmental degradation entails a loss of social capital, as well as social costs, this loss must be taken into account in the same way that an investment is amortized. As nature is now entirely in man's hands, it is quite normal to consider it, no longer as a given but as an acquisition, an investment which must constantly be rolled over, amortized just like other costs, salaries, financial expenditures and raw materials. By including "nature costs", we are doing more than protecting resources in the long term; we are enhancing the quality and durability of goods, we are recycling waste and, ultimately, we are saving. Produce, consume, but recycle, too: these are three key concepts for the future.

I should like to emphasize this second theoretical advance, which follows from the first, whether we call it "the new collective security" or "planetary development".

Since time immemorial, mankind has had to face threats to its security. Security evolves, however. To put it simply, I would say that it is now becoming less and less a military matter - since in a world in the process of

unification any war is, in a way, a kind of civil war - and is, instead acquiring an economic and ecological dimension. Let us see what this means. First of all, it means that a portion of so-called "security" spending in the old sense of the word, in other words military spending, must be redirected towards planetary development projects. Secondly, planetary development means debt for environment swaps. Lastly, planetary development involves a third level of effort: transfers of technology and financing, based, inter alia, on the "polluter pays" principle. Here, projects abound which sometimes include the creation or strengthening of institutions or, at the least, of distribution mechanisms. It is not up to me to indicate a preference among them, but their advantages and drawbacks must be discussed, keeping ever present the need to arrive at clear and concrete results.

For we absolutely must achieve concrete results. I realize, of course, that some at least of these results may occasionally clash with powerful vested interests. Let me say, however, that these interests, like the others, must show concern for the long-term future and take into account the inherent force of the feeling of equality that moves all peoples of the planet and, quite simply, the force of necessity. There can be no question that the wealthier one is, the more responsibilities one has, and that the countries of the North, first and foremost public opinion in those countries - and it is to that public opinion that I am now talking - must realize that their efforts are essential as regards both financing and technology. This is what I meant by planetary development, the complement to sustainable development, and the "new development" is all this: a spirit and certain working principles. This new spirit must infuse the way in which human beings look at things, at plants, at animals, from the glassful of water discarded after a casual sip to the animals whose species are dwindling rapidly in number. All these, the world's riches, are not something we own but, as Saint-Exupéry wrote, something we have on loan from our children.

I will now turn briefly to some of the specific issues on your agenda. My friend and colleague, Maurice Strong, the Secretary-General of the Conference, will comment on the items in greater detail.

The progress made so far in reaching agreement on Agenda 21 is a remarkable achievement. It demonstrates universal good will, as well as the importance attached to this ambitious instrument. Agenda 21 will remain a key point of reference for the rest of the decade for Governments and international organizations, as well as the non-governmental community and the public at large.

I am also pleased that the Preparatory Committee was able to transmit to you by consensus the Rio Declaration. This provides an important political framework for the major programme of action embodied in Agenda 21. I hope that you will be able to adopt this Declaration here, and that if the reservations expressed by some Governments require that you negotiate it further, the results of your efforts will enhance its content.

More generally, I am pleased that the Preparatory Committee succeeded in reaching agreement on so many important issues. It will be your task to resolve those issues which could not be negotiated by the Preparatory Committee and refine those on which only a broad understanding was reached.

One such issue is that of resource transfer. I know that figures have been suggested as to the total amount of additional resources required by developing countries. What is needed in the first instance is political will. If that is forthcoming, the necessary resources should follow, even if the complete financial package is not available immediately. I hope that by the end of this Conference a first decisive step will have been taken which will visibly demonstrate the collective good will and firm intention of donor countries to launch the concept of planetary development.

I believe that the question of technology transfer must be viewed from the same standpoint. The developing countries must have access to the necessary technologies in order to embark on the new age of planetary development. The issue is not merely one of transferring know-how from one country to another, or one enterprise to another. It is a question of building up capacities, both technological and institutional. It is a question of ensuring cooperative research on science and technology. I urge you to give special attention to achieving progress on this critical issue.

I also hope that the progress made on the very important question of forests, more specifically the draft principles on this issue, will crystallize here into an agreement. These principles are, in my view, a perfect microcosm of environment and development issues in general. The progress already made on this issue again demonstrates the willingness of all Governments to find a workable compromise in an area where positions are difficult to reconcile.

Lastly, I should like to congratulate Governments on the agreements reached on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, both of which will shortly be opened here for signature. I should like to take this opportunity particularly to commend Jean Ripert and Ambassador Vicente Sánchez for the exceptional efforts they made to promote a successful outcome.

I know the negotiations which produced these texts were long and complex and sometimes controversial. Let us not forget, however, that both represent a first for the Earth. In the case of biodiversity, the Convention clearly reaffirms the fact that we, the community of nations, are committed to conserving the work of creation and not unravelling it. It represents a turning-point in the protection of the life forms that nourish the Earth.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change launches a process of cooperation, aimed at keeping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere within safe limits. The initial level of commitment is not as high as many would have wished. But a low threshold should maximize participation - which is one condition for effectiveness. And the process of policy review should

improve commitments over time. States are now looking to the United Nations to organize the immediate follow-up work. This demonstrates that this Organization can well serve the needs of Member States in dealing with fundamental issues of economy and ecology affecting real national interests.

I have said that this is an historical moment. However, it will only be so if our efforts on behalf of the planet endure. It will only be so if the Rio Conference, the culmination of long deliberations, also marks a new beginning. And by this I mean a new point of departure for the United Nations system; for action by States; and for the mobilization of all peoples of the world.

Secretariat preparations for this Conference have involved the whole of the United Nations system, in a truly inter-agency endeavour. The same approaches must guide and inspire the follow-up to the Conference.

The role of the United Nations system in the implementation of the results of the Conference was thoroughly reviewed at a recent meeting - the first held under my chairmanship - of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the body which brings together the executive heads of all the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, under the leadership of the Secretary-General. The Committee is keenly aware of the great responsibilities which devolve on it in this regard.

Individual agencies regard the follow-up to the Conference both as major challenge and as an important new opportunity for progress in their respective fields of competence - be it the promotion of health, food and agriculture, the advancement of science and education, training, infrastructure-building, or the provision of finance for development.

Equally important, the follow-up to the Conference is seen by all organizations of the system as a major new opportunity for effective collective action. From this point of view, the outcome of this Conference, and more particularly Agenda 21, will provide a common point of reference in ensuring that agency actions in different sectors - and the capacities available to the ensemble of the system for research and policy analysis, finance for development, the technical assistance - truly complement and reinforce each other in promoting the cause of sustained and sustainable development.

Advancing those objectives - harnessing the full potential of the United Nations system to meet the critical challenges of the future - will be one of my major concerns throughout my term of office.

At the same time, I cannot emphasize too strongly that States will be the principal instruments for the implementation of the decisions and guidelines adopted here. Moreover, the protection of the planet must be a universal effort involving all those living on it.

In this context, it is especially encouraging that the preparatory work for this Conference has been characterized by such close cooperation between countries at different stages of development and between Governments and the scientific and academic communities and non-governmental actors. These networks will have to be maintained and strengthened.

In this area of sustainable development, more than in other areas, we are in a situation where we have to take action in the face of uncertainty. This is because we do not fully understand how ecosystems function, because we have sometimes to work to a very long time-scale, and because cause and effect are often separated in space. It will therefore be important to ensure that emerging opinions among scientists and experts receive full attention in decision-making processes. We have to find innovative ways of promoting a dialogue between science and politics in the context of the follow-up to this Conference.

I wish in the same context to pay special tribute to the non-governmental community. Over a thousand non-governmental organizations are accredited to the Conference. They have contributed a great deal to the preparatory process - they have worked hard and expect a lot from your deliberations. They should also have a critical role in the follow-up.

These organizations represent the peoples of the world whose voice is so clearly heard in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations. They represent men and women - and I note that there is an article 20 of the draft Declaration which rightly focuses on women - managers and workers, writers and artists, and individuals from all walks of life.

I see this Conference as a vast planet-wide endeavour. During the preparatory process, actors of all kinds - national and local authorities, producers and consumers, community groups and many more - were involved in forging the consensus which this Conference must now cement. It is only through action by every one of us living on this planet that we will succeed in achieving our goals.

Our Rio meeting has already aroused unprecedented interest throughout the world. It has captured the imagination of people everywhere.

As Secretary-General, new to the job but none the less well aware of the constraints on the powers of Governments, and indeed of international organizations, my hope is that what I may call the "spirit of Rio" - that is, the spirit of Planet Earth - will spread throughout the world. The spirit of Rio must embody the full awareness of the fragility of our planet. The spirit of Rio must lead us to think constantly of the future, our children's future.

That is why, in opening this Conference, I am very moved when I wish you success in your work. Let me end with these few simple words: never will so much depend on what you do or do not do here - for yourselves, for others, for your children and grandchildren, for the planet - for life in all its interdependent forms.

Statement by Fernando Collor, President of Brazil and President of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

On behalf of the Brazilian People, I welcome you to our country. We greet with open arms each and every one of the participants in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

It is with a feeling of great honour and a deep sense of responsiblity that I preside over the proceedings of this meeting, which I am certain will be a landmark in the history of mankind.

A special word of thanks is due to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and also to the Secretary-General of the Conference, Mr. Maurice Strong, for the unrelenting efforts, on their part, which made possible, together with the Government of Brazil, this remarkable event.

I belong to the generation that first launched a warning against a mode of growth that was leading blindly to the extinction of life on Earth.

Upon my inauguration, I promised to give priority and urgency to environmental issues, as a response to a feeling that was becoming increasingly strong among Brazilians and throughout the world.

Now, while solemnly opening the Rio Conference, I feel the emotion of one who fulfils a commitment to his contemporaries, his fellow countrymen and the international community.

On 14 June, when we return to our homes, the world will not be the same as it is this morning, 3 June 1992.

The awareness of our duties will be stronger; the will to carry them out more mature, the paths of cooperation more clearly set out and consolidated.

The many roads that brought us to Rio were fraught with uncertainties.

After all, we were negotiating something quite new; we were imagining new international institutions, new patterns of relationship among States.

Possessing tentative data and imperfect tools, we were trying to make an inventory of rights and wrongs of the past, to identify the problems of the present and to visualize the challenges that lay in the future.

But we arrived here, moved by the will of the peoples we represent.

The issue of the environment is an offspring of the era of democracy in which we live; it grows from social movements that multiply spontaneously everywhere.

We cannot leave unanswered the aspirations of our fellow men, who expect decisions capable of altering reality for the better.

The first fundamental achievement of this Conference is that it is taking place at all: the very fact that today, in this room, representatives of 180 countries, of all relevant international organizations, and of a huge universe of non-governmental organizations, can begin work on a set of texts already agreed on or very near conclusion.

We have in our hands the task of developing and widening the consensus arrived at during a long negotiating process.

As the title of the Conference indicates, we are here to make progress in a cooperative task based on two fundamental ideas: development and environment.

We accept the historic challenge and the ethical obligation of forging a new model, in which progress will be necessarily synonymous with well-being for all and with the preservation of nature.

As I have said on previous occasions, we cannot have an environmentally sound planet in a socially unjust world.

These are goals that complement each other, in each community, in each country, around the globe.

And I may give you Brazil as an example: a country that still has so much to achieve in terms both of development and of conservation.

In sum, what we are striving for is to attain, in a harmonic manner, the aspirations that are combined in the expression "sustainable development", the key concept which must bring together rich and poor, large and small countries, so that we may all achieve prosperity and shorten the distances that still separate us.

We will find new ways, we will enter an era in which societies will understand that nature is not only to be consumed but also to be enjoyed.

In place of the present GNP and GDP indicators, we will have something like a Gross Domestic Well-Being Indicator, which will combine data on national revenues with elements that effectively translate the degree of self-fulfilment of peoples, including freedom and social harmony, cultural diversity, racial integration and respect for the environment.

After two years of hard work, in addition to adopting a position of dialogue, cooperation and even leadership in the international treatment of environmental issues, my Administration has taken very important decisions at the national level.

Among them, I would mention those that have brought about a substantial reduction of deforestation in the Amazon region, as shown by satellite images, and the extensive demarcation of lands occupied by Indian communities, including the more than 94,000 square kilometres of the Yanomami people.

As an additional demonstration of the Brazilian commitment to the environmental cause, we offer our country as host to an international institution that will pursue the goals which we will set for ourselves here.

In underlining all that we share and all that brings us closer to each other, I do not wish to give the impression that this is a Conference only of celebration and of understanding.

Unfortunately, there still remain serious and persistent problems to be overcome until international action may heed the voice of reason and go down the straight road of solidarity and common interest.

Here, everyone can see that the most resilient enemy and the most persistent foe are poverty and lack of opportunities.

To preside over this huge country brings daily joys over its promises and daily dilemmas posed by a difficult national and international moment.

I do not, however, give in to the temptation of admonishing those who have more; even less do I intend to bring back a type of language of confrontation that history has fortunately left behind.

Responsibility exists in sufficient amount to be attributed to all of us. To do so, however, would be pointless. What we need is to hope that the lessons of the past, both remote and recent, will not be forgotten and will not have been in vain.

I must say, however, on behalf of all those still forced to live with poverty, that we can and we must ask from the rich countries a greater proof of brotherhood.

Without a global order with greater justice, there will be tranquil prosperity for no one, for it will be impossible to attain the stability needed for a lasting enjoyment of the riches produced by man.

For all those who are aware of belonging to a wider human community, the struggle to reduce inequalities must be a permanent cause.

Despite all that was achieved during the preparatory work, in the next 12 days many tasks and final adjustments remain and will certainly impose upon us a very busy schedule.

The road we have travelled since Stockholm, in 1972, is a source of inspiration and will give us additional motivation during this Conference.

In that meeting, ideas and words that have become commonplace today made their first appearance with the irresistible force of those truths whose time has come.

The report of the international commission chaired by Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland, Prime Minister of Norway, added to these notions the fundamental concept of sustainable development.

From Rio, our leap into the future will be even greater than it was 20 years ago.

Freed from the chains with which for decades the cold war shackled international negotiations, we can now tackle in a global manner issues that are global.

Our concerns with climate and with the atmosphere, our concerns with biodiversity, bring us to the very essence of life.

We must confront such wide-ranging and diverse issues by following a clear line based on respect for, and the dignity of, the human being.

I am certain that future generations will see this meeting as a moment of wisdom and foresight.

Because of abusive consumption of nature and its resources, be they renewable or not; because of widespread pollution; because of the damage caused by world and regional wars; because of the stockpiling of nuclear and chemical weapons; because of the failure of the predatory modes of development, mankind owed itself this Conference.

It shall mark the birth of a new international social contract that may take us, safely and soundly, beyond this century and this millennium.

Agenda 21 reflects in its name and purpose the goals that this meeting will strive to achieve.

More than any other subject, the environment requires planning in the long run.

The small neglects of today may bring about irreparable damage tomorrow.

We have the responsibility of putting into practice what we know, so as to secure a better future for the whole of mankind.

May the Rio Conference be the harbinger of a new era, in which science and technology will no longer "technify" life, but, on the contrary, make it more humane, consolidating all that they have done for our benefit and compensating for the damage they have caused to nature and for their contribution to widening the gap between rich and poor.

May this meeting also be an exhortation to peace.

There will be no healthy environment or equitable development if we are not able to build a true and permanent peace among nations. This must be a peace of fulfilment and of bounty, not simply a precarious absence of conflicts.

We must bring the principle of solidarity to the community of States.

I will welcome my colleagues, heads of State and Governments to the Summit Meeting on 12 and 13 June, certain that we will be in a position to offer them, ready and finished, all of the important texts that we were mandated to prepare. I am confident that the Conference will have the vision and the scope required by the cause of survival.

The image of the Statue of Christ the Redeemer lingers over this building where we meet and can be seen on the horizon.

On behalf of each and every Brazilian, I renew our welcome to Rio de Janeiro, where, 500 years later, the American continent no longer awaits discovery but must now discover and reveal what man is capable of achieving when the cause is just, the urgency great and hope an inspiration.

May the New World be the cradle of the new times that we all long for; may God protect and bless us.

Statement by Maurice F. Strong, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

First, may I extend my warm congratulations to you, Mr. President, on your election as Chairman of this Conference. I want also to express to you, to your Government and your people, our deep gratitude for the remarkable job you have done in preparing for this largest summit conference ever, and for the warmth and generosity with which you have welcomed us here. Our gratitude extends, too, to Governor Brizola and Mayor Alencar who have joined you so wholeheartedly in this.

I commend you, Mr. President and Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali, for your inspiring statements, which have made clear the awesome nature of the challenges which confront this Conference. Indeed, it will define the state of political will to save our planet and to make it, in the words of the Earth Pledge, a secure and hospitable home for present and future generations.

This is not a single-issue Conference. Rather, it deals with the overall cause and effect system through which a broad range of human activities interact to shape our future.

Twenty years ago at Stockholm, representatives of 113 of the world's nations took the first steps on a new journey of hope for the future of our "Only One Earth". Today, in this beautiful city of Rio de Janeiro, you have come together, as representatives of more than 178 nations, in this unprecedented parliament of the planet, to take the decisions needed to rekindle that hope and give it new substance and impetus. For, despite significant progress made since 1972 in many areas, the hopes ignited at Stockholm remain largely unfulfilled.

As the World Commission on Environment and Development made clear in its landmark report, Our Common Future, the environment, natural resources and life-support systems of our planet have continued to deteriorate, while global risks like those of climate change and ozone depletion have become more immediate and acute. Yet all the environmental deterioration and risks we have experienced to date have occurred at levels of population and human activity that are much less than they will be in the period ahead. And the underlying conditions that have produced this dilemma remain as dominant driving forces that are shaping our future and threatening our survival.

Central to the issues we are going to have to deal with are patterns of production and consumption in the industrial world that are undermining the Earth life-support systems; the explosive increase in population, largely in the developing world, that is adding a quarter of a million people daily; deepening disparities between rich and poor that leave 75 per cent of humanity struggling to live; and an economic system that takes no account of ecological costs or damage - one which views unfettered growth as progress. We have been the most successful species ever; we are now a species out of control.

The concentration of population growth in developing countries and economic growth in the industrialized countries has deepened, creating imbalances which are unsustainable, in either environmental or economic terms. Since 1972, world population has grown by 1.7 billion people, equivalent to almost the entire population at the beginning of this century; 1.5 billion of them live in developing countries, which are the least able to support them. This cannot continue. Population must be stabilized, and rapidly. If we do not do it, nature will, and much more brutally.

During the same 20-year period, world GDP increased by $20 trillion. Yet only 15 per cent of the increase accrued to developing countries. Over 70 per cent went to the already rich countries, adding further to their disproportionate pressures on the environment, resources and life-support systems of our planet. This is the other part of the population problem: the fact that every child born in the developed world consumes 20 to 30 times the resources of the planet than any third world child.

The same processes of economic growth which have produced such unprecedented levels of wealth and power for the rich minority have also given rise to the risks and imbalances that now threaten the future of rich and poor alike. This growth model, and the patterns of production and consumption which have accompanied it, is not sustainable for the rich; nor can it be

replicated by the poor. To continue along this pathway could lead to the end of our civilization.

Yet the poor need economic and social development as the only means of relieving the vicious circle of poverty in which they are caught up. Their right to development cannot be denied; nor should it be impeded by conditions unilaterally imposed on the financial flows or trade of developing countries.

The rich must take the lead in bringing their development under control, reducing substantially their impacts on the environment, leaving environmental "space" for developing countries to grow. The wasteful and destructive lifestyles of the rich cannot be maintained at the cost of the lives and livelihoods of the poor, and of nature.

For the rich, the transition to sustainable development need not require regression to a difficult or primitive life. On the contrary, it can lead to a richer life of expanded opportunities for self-realization and fulfilment. More satisfying and secure because it is sustainable, and more sustainable because its opportunities and benefits are more universally shared.

Sustainable development - development that does not destroy or undermine the ecological, economic or social basis on which continued development depends - is the only viable pathway to a more secure and hopeful future for rich and poor alike. This Conference must establish the foundations for effecting the transition to sustainable development. This can only be done through fundamental changes in our economic life and in international economic relations, particularly as between industrialized and developed countries. Environment must be integrated into every aspect of our economic policy and decision-making, as well as the culture and value systems which motivate economic behaviour.

In our negotiations with each other, nature must have a place at the table, for nature will have the last word and our decisions must respect the boundary conditions it imposes on us as well as the rich array of resources and opportunities it makes available to us. We have to face up to the dire implications of the warnings scientists are sounding. They point to the real prospect that this planet may soon become uninhabitable for people. If we respond only with rhetoric and gestures, this prospect could become reality.

Preparations for the Conference have focused on the concrete actions required to effect the transition to sustainability. Under the masterful leadership of its Chairman, Ambassador Tommy Koh, the Preparatory Committee for this Conference, in more than two years of intensive preparations and negotiations, has fashioned the proposals that are now before you. In doing so, it has had the benefit of an extraordinary range of contributions, from the entire United Nations system, from preparatory conferences in every region, many sectoral conferences, national reports and the participation in various ways of an unprecedented number of institutions, experts and organizations, both governmental and non-governmental. I want especially to note that no international conference of Governments has enjoyed a broader

range of participation and greater contributions from non-governmental organizations than this one, and I salute them for this.

The results of this preparatory work are now before you. The majority of the proposals come with the recommendation, by consensus, of the Preparatory Committee. But some critically important issues remain for you to resolve here. Let me mention some of the most important issues as I see them.

The 27 principles of the Rio Declaration, building on the Stockholm Declaration, clearly represent a major step forward in establishing the basic principles that must govern the conduct of nations and peoples towards each other and the Earth to ensure a secure and sustainable future. I recommend that you approve them in their present form and that they serve as a basis for future negotiation of an Earth Charter, which could be approved on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

Agenda 21 is the product of an extensive process of preparation at the professional level and negotiation at the political level. It established, for the first time, a framework for the systemic, cooperative action required to effect the transition to sustainable development. And its 115 programme areas define the concrete actions required to carry out this transition. In respect of the issues that are still unresolved, I would urge you to ensure that the agreements reached at this historic Summit move us beyond the positions agreed by Governments in previous forums.

The issue of new and additional financial resources to enable developing countries to implement Agenda 21 is crucial and pervasive. This, more than any other issue, will clearly test the degree of political will and commitment of all countries to the fundamental purposes and goals of this Earth Summit.

The need to begin the process is so urgent, so compelling, that Governments, particularly those of the high-income countries, will have come, I trust, prepared to make the initial commitments that will be necessary to do this. It is clear that the North must begin to invest much more in progress for the developing world. Developing countries must leave here with the confidence that they will have the support and incentives they need to commit themselves to the substantial reorientations of policies and redeployment of their own resources called for by Agenda 21.

I hope, too, that you would agree that these new and additional funds be channelled, at least initially, through a number of existing institutions and programmes, including an appropriately revised Global Environment Facility.

This calls for a new sense of real partnership. Traditional notions of foreign aid and of the donor-recipient syndrome are no longer an appropriate basis for North-South relations. The world community must move towards a more objective and consistent system of effecting resource transfers similar to that used to redress imbalances and ensure equity within national societies.

Financing the transition to sustainable development should not be seen merely in terms of extra costs, but rather as an indispensable investment in global environmental security.

Such investments also make good economic sense. It is no accident that those countries and corporations which use energy and materials most efficiently are also those which are most successful economically. The reverse is also true - for poor economic performance is almost invariably accompanied by poor environmental performance. The importance of eco-efficiency was the principal theme of the landmark report Changing Course, prepared by the Business Council for Sustainable Development as its contribution to the Conference.

Nowhere is efficiency more important than in the use of energy. The transition to a more efficient energy economy that weans us off our overdependence on fossil fuels is imperative to the achievement of sustainable development.

The removal of trade barriers and discriminatory subsidies would enable developing countries to earn several times more than the amounts they now receive by way of official development asisstance. Large-scale reduction of their current debt burdens could provide most of the new and additional resources they require to make the transition to sustainable development.

We also need new ways of financing environment and development objectives. For example, emission permits that are tradeable internationally offer a means of making the most cost-efffective use of funds devoted to pollution control, while at the same time providing a non-budgetary means of effecting resource transfers. Taxes on polluting products or activities, like the CO_2 taxes now being levied or proposed by a number of countries, could also be devoted to the financing of international environment and development measures. While none of these promising measures may be ripe for definitive action at this Conference, I would urge the Conference to put them on the priority agenda for the early post-Rio period.

The devastating drought in southern Africa and the continuing plight of the victims of conflict and poverty in so many African countries are a grim reminder of the need for the world community to give special priority to the needs of Africa and to the least-developed countries everywhere. The tragedy is that poverty and hunger persist in a world never better able to eliminate them. This is surely a denial of the moral and ethical basis of our civilization as well as a threat to its survival. Agenda 21 measures for the eradication of poverty and the economic enfranchisement of the poor provide the basis for a new worldwide war on poverty. Indeed, I urge you to adopt the eradication of poverty as a central objective for the world community as we move into the twenty-first century.

Another important region which deserves special attention at this time is that composed of the nations of the former Soviet Union and Eastern and Central Europe. These countries, which have suffered some of the most severe

environmental devastation to be experienced anywhere, are now faced with the daunting task of revitalizing and building their economies. It is important to them, and to the entire world community, that they have the international support they will need to do this on an environmentally sound and sustainable basis.

I want to pay tribute to those who have negotiated the Conventions on Climate Change and Biodiversity, which will be opened for your signature here. It has not been an easy process and there are important reservations about both instruments. They represent the first steps in the processes of addressing two of the most serious threats to the habitability of our planet. Signing them will not, in itself, be sufficient. Their real importance will depend on the extent to which they give rise to concrete actions and are followed quickly by protocols containing the special measures required to make them fully effective and the finances needed to implement them.

For both these issues deal with the future of life on Earth. Over the next 20 years, more than one quarter of the Earth's remaining species may become extinct. And in the case of global warming, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has warned that if carbon dioxide emissions are not cut by 60 per cent immediately, the changes in the next 60 years may be so rapid that nature will be unable to adapt and man incapable of controlling them.

I also recommend that you mandate the negotiation of a convention on desertification and deterioration of arid lands, which are threatening the lives and the livelihoods of so many people in the developing world, notably Africa. It is important, too, for this Conference, in negotiating the forestry principles placed before it by the Preparatory Committee, to provide for continuing progress towards an effective regime for conservation and sustainable development of the world's forests.

War and preparation for war are a major source of environmental damage and must be subject to greater accountability and control. This should include much stronger legal instruments, which clear provisions for enforcement, which provide effective deterrence against future environmental aggressors.

The road to Rio has been enlightened and enlivened by a remarkable and diverse range of activities and dialogue - most have been highly supportive, some critical, some sceptical, but all testifying to the historic importance of this occasion and the hopes and expectations of people everywhere for what you will do here in the next two weeks. Many of the people and organizations participating in this global process will be with us here. Many more are gathering at the accompanying "people's summit" at the Global Forum. I look forward to a positive and creative interaction between the Conference and these other "people's" forums.

Several other important events have occurred here just prior to the Conference. The World Conference of Indigenous Peoples met to share their experience and concerns. They are repositories of much of the traditional knowledge and wisdom from which modernization has separated most of us. They are custodians, too, of some of the world's most important and vulnerable ecosystems - tropical forests, deserts and arctic regions. We must hear and heed their voices, learn from their experience and respect their right to live in their own lands in accordance with their traditions, values and cultures.

Full and informed participation of people through democratic processes at every level, accompanied by openness and transparency, are essential to the achievement of the objectives of this Conference. Provision for such participation must be an essential feature of the response by Governments and institutions, national and international, to the results of the Conference.

No constituencies are more important in all countries than women, youth and children. To make their essential and distinctive contributions, the remaining barriers to the full and equal participation of women in all aspects of our economic, social and political life must be removed. Similarly, the views, concerns and the interests of our youth and children must be respected and they must be provided with expanding opportunities to participate in the decisions which will shape the future that is so largely theirs.

By the early part of the twenty-first century, more than half the world's people will live in urban areas. Cities of the developing world are being overwhelmed by explosive growth at rates beyond anything ever experienced before. By the year 2025, the urban population of developing countries is expected to reach some 4 billion. In our host country, the proportion of people living in urban areas is already more than 70 per cent. The meetings of leading representatives of local governments, which took place in Curitiba and Rio in the past week, have highlighted these issues and established the basis for the adoption of an Agenda 21 by many of the world's leading cities.

We are reminded by the Declaration of the Sacred Earth Gathering, which met here last weekend, that the changes in behaviour and direction called for here must be rooted in our deepest spiritual, moral and ethical values. We must reinstate in our lives the ethic of love and respect for the Earth which traditional peoples have retained as central to their value systems. This must be accompanied by a revitalization of the values central to all of our principal religious and philosophical traditions. Caring, sharing, cooperation with and love of each other must no longer be seen as pious ideals, divorced from reality, but rather as the indispensable basis for the new realities on which our survival and well-being must be premised.

Science and technology have produced our knowledge-based civilization. Its misuse and unintended effects have given rise to the risks and imbalances which now threaten us. At the same time, it offers the insights we need to guide our decisions and the tools we need to take the actions that will shape our common future. The guidance which science provides will seldom be so precise as to remove all uncertainty. In matters affecting our survival, we

cannot afford to wait for the certainty which only a post-mortem could provide. We must act on the precautionary principle guided by the best evidence available.

To become full partners in the process of saving our planet, developing countries need first and foremost substantial new support for strengthening their own scientific, technological, professional, educational and related institutional capacities. This is one of the important and urgent features of Agenda 21.

Perhaps the most important common ground we must arrive at in Rio is the understanding that we are all in this together. No place on the planet can remain an island of affluence in a sea of misery. We are either going to save the whole world or no-one will be saved. We must from here on in all go down the same path. One country cannot stabilize its climate in isolation. No country can unilaterally preserve its biodiversity. One part of the world cannot live an orgy of unrestrained consumption while the rest destroys its environment just to survive. Neither is immune from the effects of the other.

There is an ominous tendency today to erect new iron curtains to insulate the more affluent and privileged from the poor, the underprivileged and the dispossessed. Iron curtains and national boundaries provide no solutions to the problems of an interdependent world community in which what happens in one part affects all.

Like it or not, from here on in, we're in this together: rich, poor, North, South. It is an exhilarating challenge to erase the barriers that have separated us in the past, to join in the global partnership that will enable us to survive in a more secure and hospitable world. The industrialized world cannot escape its primary responsibility to lead the way in establishing this partnership and making it work. Up to now, the damage inflicted on our planet has been done largely inadvertently. We now know what we are doing. We have lost our innocence. It would be more than irresponsible to continue down this path.

This Conference will, in the final analysis, meet the needs for which it was called and the hopes and aspirations it has ignited throughout the world only if the decisions taken here give rise to real and fundamental changes in the underlying conditions that have produced the civilizational crisis we now confront. If the agreements reached here do not serve the common interests of the entire human family, if they are devoid of the means and commitments required to implement them, if the world lapses back to "business as usual", we will have missed a historic opportunity, one which may not recur in our times, if ever. We would thus bequeath to those who follow us a legacy of lost hopes and deepening despair. This we must not do.

The Earth Summit is not an end in itself, but a new beginning. The measures you agree on here will be but first steps on a new pathway to our common future. Thus, the results of this Conference will ultimately depend on the credibility and effectiveness of its follow-up. It is, therefore, of the

highest importance that all Governments commit themselves to translate the decisions they take collectively here to national policies and practices required to give effect to them, particularly implementation of Agenda 21. The preparatory process has provided the basis for this and the momentum which has brought us to Rio must be maintained. And institutional changes to be made within the United Nations must provide an effective and credible basis for its continued leadership of this process.

Our essential unity as peoples of the Earth must transcend the differences and difficulties which still divide us. You are called upon to rise to your historic responsibility as custodians of the planet in taking the decisions here that will unite rich and poor, North, South, East and West, in a new global partnership to ensure our common future. As Sir Shridath Ramphal says in his book Our Country, The Planet, commissioned for the Conference, "in our drive for material betterment, we have become so indifferent to our roots in nature that we are in danger of tearing them out". The road beyond Rio will be a long and difficult one; but it will also be a journey of renewed hope, of excitement, challenge and opportunity, leading as we move into the twenty-first century to the dawning of a new world in which the hopes and aspirations of all the world's children for a more secure and hospitable future will be fulfilled. This unprecedented responsibility is in your hands.

Statement by His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden

On this very special occasion we really feel that the future is in our hands. Therefore it is a privilege to address the Conference and to Convey a message from Sweden, host of the 1972 Conference on the Human Environment.

It is a message of concern. Progress has been uneven since the first Conference. There has been great environmental improvement on the local, national and regional levels, while the global threats are more serious than ever.

The developing countries continue to face enormous problems. Even if many of them have been able to improve their situation in a significant way, more than one billion people on this planet live under conditions of unacceptable poverty.

My message today is also a message of hope. For the first time in history, all the nations of the world meet to discuss the twin problems of environment and development.

Careful and efficient preparatory work during the last two years has hopefully created the basis for a successful outcome of the Conference.

Many of us have felt that history has been accelerating over the years. The world of today is very different from the world of 1972. The threat of an ultimate nuclear war is less evident.

This means that generations that have been thinking in a shorter perspective in the shadow of a possible nuclear disaster now have to face a longer perspective. Our eyes have to be raised beyond the immediate time horizon. The year 2000 is tomorrow, the year 2100 is not far away. It is a great challenge to consider the world beyond our own life-spans. The long view is not an intellectual luxury, but a necessity and an opportunity. Feeling the repsonsibility for coming generations adds a new dimension to our existence.

All this may not stand in the way of a deeper understanding of the present. We have to act today so that future ecological disasters are avoided. But in many parts of the world, the disaster is already there. The present drought catastrophe in Africa is one example. And there are many more.

The link between the environment and development is vital. Here, in Rio de Janeiro, we have to find new ways of reflection and action to make sustainable development a living reality and a real possibility.

No doubt many people feel uncertain about the present state of the world situation. Old structures are falling before new ones are ready. We are seriously concerned about the world economy, the problems of development in the South and the continuing stagnation and unemployment in the North.

But we have no choice. We do not have the option of first resolving today's problems and then tomorrow's. We have to manage the intellectual, political and practical efforts by integrating them into credible action.

Of course, this is easy to say but more difficult to do. Governments of the world are struggling with so many problems that require immediate attention. The same is true of individuals. If you have to fight for survival, how could you give priority to coming generations? If your country faces a sudden economic crisis, how could you make your Government consider the long-term options instead?

There are no automatic answers: each situation must be judged separately. But still, the need for an integrated analysis is urgent.

The Rio Conference offers us all a necessary opportunity for reflection. In the Conference agenda and in the preparatory work the relationships between the different concepts have been underlined:

Poverty as a consequence and as a cause of environmental degradation;

The connection between deforestation and desertification;

The link between land-based pollution of coastal waters and a deteriorating fishing economy.

The key word is integration - of reflection and action. In the North it means the intellectual courage of admitting the interests of the developing countries and the needs for transfer of adequate, new and additional financial resources. Every individual also must consider other consumption patterns and lifestyles, in a long-term perspective.

In this Conference Hall we have come together from all parts of the world. We will have a unique opportunity to exchange views on these fundamental problems, on the basis of well-prepared secretariat documents. This is our chance to strengthen the integrated approach and enable our Governments to make the necessary decisions, in this rapidly changing world.

But Governments alone cannot achieve very much if the citizens do not agree or follow. Therefore, the long-term approach requires a tremendous effort of awareness and education. The role of non-governmental organizations is vital. Through their action, no one will have to doubt the issues at stake. Therefore it is important that there are so many representatives of non-governmental organizations here in Rio. Their active participation in the UNCED process is the key to long-term success.

The same goes for the media. This Conference is followed with great interest all over the world. Consequently, the media follows it very closely. Their responsibility goes beyond the immediate: the coverage of the less dramatic and more tedious follow-up process will be quite as important.

Last week I participated in two pre-Conference meetings. One was here in Rio de Janeiro, organized by the International Chamber of Commerce. It underlined the importance of the business community for the continued UNCED process. It also stressed the responsibility of Governments to provide the private sector with the right signals to induce environmentally sound action. The report of the Business Council for Sustainable Development goes in the same direction. The environmental concern for a longer perspective should not be seen as a threat to the business community but as a challenge and opportunity.

The other conference was in Curitiba, dealing with the role of local communities, cities, towns and municipalities. It was encouraging to see the drive and vigour of environmental action displayed by so many municipalities around the world. "Think globally, act locally" is not just a slogan. It is a reality of which the Curitiba experience revealed the full strength.

Integration is the key word:

Integration of different policies to make development and concern for the environment possible today;

Integration of the interests of today with those of tomorrow;

Integration of the global and the local.

This Conference should be able to achieve it all. Therefore, I am convinced that we have a historic opportunity right now to accelerate international cooperation in a way which will enable all of us to look towards the future with more confidence.

It is with great hope that I hand over the symbolic torch from Stockholm 1972 to Rio de Janeiro 1992. We are here to prepare for the next century, we are doing it together, and we are working in this beautiful city under your most able chairmanship. The prerequisites for success are there. Let us use this opportunity and not miss the boat.

Statement by Gro Harlem Brundtland, Prime Minister of Norway and Chairman of the World Commission on Environment and Development

There are less than 400 weeks left of the twentieth century. Time is short for us to rectify the present unsustainable patterns of human development. We must eradicate poverty. We must achieve greater equality within and between nations. We must reconcile human activities and human numbers with the laws of nature.

In 1987, in Our Common Future, we described the dangers arising from attempts by both industrialized and developing countries to base progress on practices which are environmentally and economically unsustainable. We addressed the interlocking crises of environment and development. We outlined a process of change towards sustainable development.

We called upon the United Nations General Assembly to convene an international conference "to review progress made and promote follow-up arrangements ... to set benchmarks and maintain human progress within the guidelines of human needs and natural laws". Today, five years later, we are opening that conference.

Six weeks ago, the world Commission, reinforced by five distinguished world leaders, met again in London, and issued our political statement on the vital issues before this Conference.

Human history has now reached a watershed where fundamental policy changes become unavoidable. The more than one billion people who today cannot meet their own basic needs, our own children and grandchildren, and the Earth itself all cry out for a revolution. It is bound to come eventually. We know we have an opportunity to head off the danger, disorder and conflict which might otherwise be inevitable.

A sharp reduction in the arms race and the expected peace dividend can be used to finance today's most urgent form of collective security - environmental security.

We need a new form of "collective engagement", not only to stabilize the new East-West relations, but to establish a new North-South relationship based on mutual enlightened self-interest.

We will all be held accountable for what we fail to agree in Rio. For the first time in human history - all over the world - people will be able to closely monitor their leaders at work at a major conference, through widespread television and other media coverage.

We cannot claim that we lack knowledge. A global partnership must start with a commitment by the industrial countries to reduce sharply the burden they impose on the carrying capacity of the Earth's ecosystems by their unsustainable consumption and production patterns.

We should not be surprised that developing nations are approaching the Rio Summit with open economic demands. For them, it is essentially a conference about development and justice.

Poverty degrades not only those who suffer it, but also those who tolerate it. The time has come for a real attack on mass poverty. Poverty, environment and population can no longer be dealt with - or even thought of - as separate issues; they are interlinked in practice and cannot be delinked in the formulation of policies.

Unless poverty is alleviated, there is no change that we will be able to stabilize the world population. It has grown by 500 million since the Commission last met five years ago. We must deal with population growth through an integrated approach, including education and the enhancement of the status of women, improved public health and family planning.

During the preparations for the Conference, many developing countries declared themselves ready to make political commitments to curb population growth, but some delegations have resisted calls for the universal availability of modern family planning. We all have an obligation to overcome this resistance and rise to the real challenges of our time.

Sustainable development can be advanced only by an international trading system which enlarges freedom of market access, especially for developing countries, and which incorporates environmental values. The Commission regrets that the current GATT Round has neglected environment and sustainable development and calls for these issues to be addressed in future negotiations.

A decade after the debt crisis broke in Latin America, many developing countries are unable to escape the onerous burden of foreign debt. Developing country debt now exceeds US$ 1.3 thousand billion, and debt service exceeds net development assistance by a factor of four. It is imperative that further debt relief be given, in particular to the low-income countries.

Access to environmentally sound technologies is of critical importance in respect of every item of Agenda 21. There is an urgent need to devote substantially more resources to the development of new and viable environmentally friendly technologies. Moreover, there is a further need to create an improved climate for private investment and to develop innovative new partnerships between Government and business.

The Conference secretariat's estimation of the financial resources required for implementation of Agenda 21 in developing countries amounts to US$ 625 billion. Some 80 per cent, or $500 billion, will have to be provided by developing countries themselves. The remaining 20 per cent, or an estimated $125 billion required annually, must come from concessional financing by the industrial countries.

While this may appear a very large sum, it is in fact equivalent to the amounts which would be raised if the industrial countries met their long-established ODA target of 0.7 per cent of GNP.

The Commission built on the conclusions of the Tokyo Declaration on Financing Global Environment and Development - a timely initiative taken by former Prime Minister Takeshita. The 0.7 per cent is the minimum necessary, given the scale of the efforts needed. All donor nations should achieve this target by the year 2000.

Industrialized countries must make a significant start here in Rio towards full implementation of Agenda 21, steadily increasing additional amounts yearly. We believe that this start should not be less than $10 billion in 1993.

Beyond concessional financing, the special needs of middle-income developing countries must be met. It is no less important that the international community facilitates financial flows to these countries on appropriate terms and through a variety of mechanisms.

At the Earth Summit, our human society should rise to the challenge that confronts it. We believe that the momentum is now irreversible. We must also look beyond Rio to ways that will help to sustain and strengthen it.

Within the United Nations system, the General Assembly should act as the supreme policy-making forum for sustainable development. We support the proposal for a high-level Commission on Sustainable Development.

We need a growing coalition of reason, which so clearly depends on uniting the forces of democracy.

The World Commission calls upon the world's leaders present at the Earth Summit to commit the world's people to securing human survival. Narrowly focused national priorities will only hamper progress and stand in the way.

We are compelled to manage the most important global transition since the agricultural and industrial revolutions - the transition to sustainable development.

We may temporarily immunize ourselves emotionally to the images of starvation, drought, floods, and people suffocating under the load of wastes we are piling on a nature so bountiful, but there is a time bomb ticking. And when the world population doubles, and the world economy increases fivefold or tenfold, while leaving new hundreds of millions constantly hungry and in acute poverty, it will have been too late.

We need nothing less than to build a global democracy based on common perceptions of common challenges. We need to educate people, not to arm them, we need moderation and modernization. We need radical decisions at this crisis meeting on humanity's future.

We cannot betray future generations. They will judge us harshly if we fail at this crucial moment. We have a moral duty. We have the means. We have many of the ways. We - each of us - are responsible. We will be held accountable.

Statement by Mario Soares, President of Portugal

I extend greetings to all the participants in this historic Rio Conference and pay tribute to the sense of responsibility shown by the United Nations General Assembly in convening the Conference at such an opportune moment. I thank the President of the Republic of Brazil, whose country is hosting this Conference and has close ties to Portugal, for extending a special invitation to me to attend this opening meeting. We are deeply grateful to President Collor for this very courteous gesture towards Portugal.

As Mr. Maurice Strong, the Secretary-General, to whom this Conference owes so much, has said, it is of pressing and indeed decisive importance for mankind, in the difficult closing years of this millennium, that a viable, fair balance be found at the global level between environment and development.

All people of awareness now recognize that we cannot continue to close our eyes to the steady degradation of our besieged and overburdened planet. This degradation affects both essential ecological balances and the situation of the human species which, over vast areas, still suffers from hunger, malnutrition, inadequate housing, diseases for which science has no cure, ignorance and underdevelopment. All people of awareness have also realized that there is a relationship of absolute interdependence between environmental protection and efforts to combat poverty and underdevelopment. The Brundtland Report, Our Common Future, thus builds on the Brandt Report, which, 15 years ago, was already maintaining that the North-South dialogue aimed at combating underdevelopment is an absolute imperative for the survival of the more developed nations.

It is not enough, however, to be aware of the gravity of the situation facing the Earth, our common home. That is only a beginning, albeit a tremendously important one. The next step is to know how to act, how to effect the necessary changes, in what way and by what means. This is the great challenge facing the Rio Conference.

The expectations that have been aroused throughout the world are tremendous. That is just as well. The Forum of non-governmental organizations and individual concerned citizens who have come to Rio de Janeiro from every corner of the globe is eloquent proof of this expectation and these interests. On the one hand it represents a collective moral position, on the other an act of political will that States and Governments cannot ignore.

At a time when we are talking of the end of ideologies as a result of the collapse of communism and the end of a world divided into rival blocs, it is comforting to feel, in connection with this Rio Conference, the moral idealism of the young people who believe in this great and noble cause of protecting our planet against the manifold risks which threaten it. In a sense, we are seeing the rebirth of utopia, of the belief in the ability of the individual, of all individuals to take destiny into their own hands by protecting the Earth's resources, defending biological diversity, avoiding the pollution of such essential resources as water, air, soils or oceans and, above all, believing that it is possible to reduce the inequalities among individuals and among nations and to build a world of peace, justice and well-being.

I know how difficult it is to move ahead from the rhetoric of good intentions to concrete, binding resolutions. I know the care that went into the preparations for this Conference, the important declarations that preceded it and the tremendous amount of data collection that was done, just as I am aware of the difficulties that remain, the scarcity of available resources in relation to needs, the reservations of some countries and the complexity of reconciling conflicting interests. Nevertheless, when I take stock of the progress that has been achieved and the small steps that have been taken as a result of pragmatic, persistent efforts, my feeling is one of confidence. To the sceptics, I would say that the Rio Conference must not be viewed as the final solution to the Earth's environmental problems, but rather as a starting point and also as a crucial qualitative leap forward in the process of creating universal awareness of environmental issues with all their economic, social and cultural implications.

I come here as the representative of a small European country which has a long history and which is proud of the contributions it has made to creating the civilization of the "universal" of which Teilhard de Chardin spoke. A full member of the European Community, of which it is currently occupying the Presidency, Portugal stands between two worlds: while it belongs to one of the most developed regions of the world it is, without question, one of the poorest of the rich countries. This makes it particularly well placed to understand how environmental needs, the importance of technology transfers, the foreign debt burden and the requirements of sustainable development are

interrelated and interdependent and how vitally urgent it is for everyone, rich and poor, that the peoples of the Earth hold a dialogue and reach agreements, in peace and solidarity, in order to save the Earth - or rather to ensure the survival of mankind on Earth. This is our common responsibility.

I thank you again and I extend Portugal's best wishes for the success of this Conference, which I am sure will play a decisive role in forging a new approach to the way mankind lives on Earth.

Annex III

CLOSING STATEMENTS

Statement by Fernando Collor, President of Brazil and President of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

I wish to start by expressing my warmest gratitude to all those who have come from all corners of the world to contribute to the success of our Rio '92 Conference: Governments, the United Nations Secretariat, the Conference secretariat, specialized agencies, organizations, movements and ultimately all people dedicated to the cause of environment and development.

We know how much this great cause owes to the determination and even to the sacrifices made by non-governmental organizations. The Global Forum was a great and magnificent event. Here, in Rio, we have all joined hands.

I would also wish to mention that I am proud of the work carried out by Brazil in the preparation of this, which was the largest international meeting of all history - a clear testimony of our ability, and of our calling as a modern, open and enterprising country. I have noted with pleasure the numerous expressions of appreciation for the efforts we made.

My special recognition goes to the people of Rio, cariocas and fluminenses, to the Government of State of Rio de Janeiro, the Office of the Mayor, the National Working Group (GTN), organizations, companies and to each and every Brazilian involved in this endeavour. I also wish to extend my thanks to Minister Francisco Rezek for his dedication in the beginning of preparations for the Conference.

We all owe a word of gratitude to the Secretary-General, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, to Mr. Maurice Strong, and to those who worked with them.

Lastly, I would like to express my recognition to Ambassador Tommy Koh, from Singapore, for his tireless work as Chairman of the Preparatory Committee and of the Main Committee of the Conference.

For at least 12 days the attention of mankind was focused on the essential questions of life, development and justice on Earth.

There is a genuine and broad interest for what we have accomplished; our peoples will expect to see the implementation of the task we have started here.

The Rio Conference does not end in Rio.

The spirit that guided its debates and deliberations - what Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali called the "spirit of Rio" - must linger on and guide us into the future, much beyond 1992.

The Commission on Sustainable Development must be the faithful expression of that spirit.

Our aim is to forge unity.

To be sure, the Conference did not offset, decisively and definitively, the trends towards polarization between the rich and the poor. Most of all, however, it undoubtedly served the purpose of increasing the universal awareness of our common destiny.

The world today is aware, much more than it was 12 days ago, that the questions of environment and development cannot be treated separately.

The world is aware that it is necessary to put an end both to contamination that is admittedly the result of short-term economic interest and to contamination that is the involuntary by-product of poverty, ignorance and the daily struggle for survival.

The world is aware that there is a pressing need for international legal norms, such as those which were opened for signature here: the Conventions on Climate Change and on Biological Diversity. There is a crucial need for commitments and programmes of action, such as those embodied in the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 and the declaration on forests.

The world is aware, much more than it was 12 days ago, that we must be able to rely upon a system of financial mechanisms to channel new and additional resources to the projects and proposals oriented towards sustainable progress, and to respond to the needs of developing countries. The decisions adopted by the Conference with respect to such mechanisms constitute an important step in that direction.

The world is aware that Rio '92 represents the starting point on the road on which nations, rich and poor, as well as men and women, will join together in the struggle for preservation of the planet, for development, for justice and, ultimately, for universal peace.

And the world is aware, also, that the United Nations has an increasingly central role to play in the history of mankind. The Rio Conference itself shows that issues of universal concern, such as environment and development, issues that are related to mankind as a whole, can only be dealt with in forums where all peoples are assembled on an equal footing.

On behalf of all Brazilians, I call upon you all to keep in your minds and hearts the memory of the days spent here.

In the Rio Conference, which concluded with the Earth Summit, our task was sowing the seeds. A good harvest will now depend on our collective effort and dedication.

As we leave this meeting, may we take with us, granted for sure, that in these 12 days we have been the protagonists in a historic moment of partnership and change.

It will be up to each one of us to accept the guidance of a new ethic of solidarity.

The world, as I pointed out before, is no longer the same as it was on 3 June. It has become a little better, a little safer and a little more unified.

It was worthwhile. We have taken the right direction and we will reach our goals, under the blessing and with the help of God.

Statement by Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General of the United Nations

It is a great honour to address you on this occasion. This Conference was called to face an immense challenge. Major divisions between the participants have been narrowed. A great stride has been taken towards our goal, which is simply stated: saving our planet.

It is my earnest hope that the spirit of Rio, which is on everyone's lips at this Summit, can provide the momentum for the even larger tasks ahead; that the decisions to be taken in the future will reflect our common thinking in Rio.

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as approved by the Conference, marks a significant advance. It places people at the centre of our concerns. It deals with both environmental and development aspects. It reflects a commitment to certain basic principles. I know that it represents a delicate compromise of various perceptions and priorities. The strength of this compromise is precisely that it is accepted by every nation in the world and not just one or another group of nations.

The greater part of the negotiating time of the '92 process has been taken up by the negotiations on the action programmes included in Agenda 21. As I indicated in my opening address, I see this as the centre-piece of international cooperation and of coordination of activities within the United Nations system for many years to come.

We have now an action programme that takes the first steps towards spelling out the concept of sustainable development and planetary development in terms of specific actions.

In addition to its substantive importance, Agenda 21 is also important as a process. Here we have a programme defined, not just by a few experts or by one or two groups of countries, but on a universal basis by all countries of the world. I am particularly gratified to see the commitments to poverty

alleviation which are included in Agenda 21. I would also draw particular attention to the agreement on the questions relating to a convention on desertification, a region of great concern to some of the poorest countries in the world.

The signing of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity are clearly an important part of the UNCED process. Both Conventions represent a first for the Earth. In the case of biodiversity, the Convention clearly reaffirms the fact that the community of nations is committed to conserving the work of creation and to prevent it from deterioration. It represents a turning-point in the protection of the life forms that nourish the Earth.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change launches a process of cooperation which is aimed at keeping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere within safe limits. The initial level of commitment is not as high as many would have wished. But a low level of commitment should maximize participation - which is one condition for effectiveness. The process of policy review should improve commitments over time. The United Nations stands ready to discharge its responsibilities in the follow-up of work.

I am deeply gratified that as of today, 153 countries (plus EEC) have signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and 153 countries (plus EEC) have signed the Convention on Biological Diversity.

I also note with satisfaction that your negotiations have brought a statement of principles on forests. I expect this statement to become a landmark in our continuing search for ways to better manage, develop and conserve these important resources. That you have succeeded in reaching agreement on such a politically sensitive matter is a tribute to the spirit of compromise and goodwill that has inspired you all along.

In the same spirit, you have also managed to resolve the question of the institutional mechanism at the United Nations to be entrusted with the follow-up of the Conference. I will, in accordance with your request, report to you fully at the forthcoming sessions of the General Assembly on the institutional modalities, including the work of the expected high-level Commission on Sustainable Development.

Such, then, is the picture that our great planet-wide building project presents today. However, this is not much in the light of the issues at stake as I described them when I opened this Conference. The current level of commitment is not comparable with the scope and severity of the problems. However that may be, Rio is but one moment on a long road, a moment which is useful because of the awareness that has been created, the decisions that have been taken, the mobilization to which it has given rise.

Already a thousand voices throughout the world have echoed the first signposts we have erected here. We have a long road before us. Many people have insisted on the length of the way that remains to be travelled.

It has been said that Rio was a beginning. This is true only in part: whether in relation to development or in relation to the environment, there has been no shortage in recent decades of conferences, preparatory work and programmes. What is new, on the other hand, is the now extremely close links that we have been able to cement between the two key words: planet-wide development and protection of the environment. This is the first achievement of Rio.

In particular, since the two paths of development and environment are the outcome of long-standing efforts on the part of the world Organization, I should like its fiftieth anniversary, in 1995, to be marked by substantial results. For example, a new Earth Charter could be adopted by all, as has been suggested by more than one Head of State or Government.

The second achievement of our Conference, I believe, is that our road is now illuminated by a new light, which I along with many others have called the spirit of Rio. It comprises, I think, three dimensions: an intellectual dimension, that of coherence; an economic dimension, that of planet-wide development; and, lastly, a political dimension, namely the sense of duration, that is to say of responsibility.

The intellectual dimension, that of coherence, consists in recognizing that the planet Earth is a vast set of interdependences. Rising water levels threaten the Ganges delta just as much as they do Venice or the islands of the Pacific!

The second dimension of the spirit of Rio, the economic dimension, probably constitutes its heart. Thinking of the interdependencies implies seeing development as a whole; this is what I have called planet-wide development. Overdevelopment and underdevelopment give equal cause for concern: both of them must gradually be replaced by planet-wide development. I should like all the logical consequences of this change to be recognized: first, that the effort must be a global one. It must be made both by the countries of the North and by the countries of the South, which cannot avoid making any contribution. And one of these contributions of the recipient countries is to see to it that the additional resources are utilized efficiently, in accordance with a fair formula which has been adopted here. Nor is that all: in all logic, the global partnership means that all the partners must play their role.

It is with a third, more political, dimension that I should like to conclude this rapid recapitulation. The spirit of Rio, for all of you leaders gathered here, is the clear awareness of a political duty, the duty to the long term. Politics is more than a struggle to win or retain power; its essential aspect is the exercise of power, that is to say the preparation of the world for generations to come. The spirit of Rio brings us back to this essential aspect of politics, the preparation of the future: what we do in this respect will not necessarily bear fruit in the next few years, but on a longer, sometimes much longer, time-scale.

Thus, our Conference is drawing to a close. The course has been charted. This is not a time to rest, for almost everything remains to be done. Today, man is still a formidable destroyer. By weighing too heavily on the Earth, and by destroying life around him, he has reached the point of calling in question his own survival. Today, we are seeking to limit the forms of pollution for which we are still responsible to their current rate. One day, we shall have to do much more, and clean up the planet - and we shall have to do so under much more difficult conditions, for in 25 years the world's population will have increased by two billion. Today, the United Nations is doing what it can. It is setting the ground rules, it is launching a movement which it hopes will be something more than a fashionable trend, a "green trend" which would be nothing more than hypocrisy. But the function of the United Nations is not to mask general inaction with words, speeches, reports or programmes. Your job is to act, to assume your responsibilities.

I should like to conclude by saying that the spirit of Rio must create a new form of good citizenship. After loving his neighbour as the Bible required him to, post-Rio man must also love the world, including the flowers, birds and trees - every part of that natural environment that we are constantly destroying.

Over and above the moral contract with God, over and above the social contract concluded with men, we must now conclude an ethical and political contract with nature, with this Earth to which we owe our very existence and which gives us life.

To the ancients, the Nile was a god to be venerated, as was the Rhine, an infinite source of European myths, or the Amazonian forest, the mother of forests. Throughout the world, nature was the abode of the divinities that gave the forest, the desert or the mountains a personality which commanded worship and respect. The Earth had a soul. To find that soul again, to give it new life, that is the essence of Rio.

Statement by Maurice F. Strong, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

This indeed is a historic moment for humanity. And I think for all of you, as for me, it is also a very great human experience. This whole process has been more than a political and a technocratic process - it has indeed been a profoundly important human experience from which none of us can emerge unchanged.

First of all, I would like to express my profound gratitude for the generous words, confidence and appreciation that have been extended to us here. I say us because I get all too much exposure and all too much credit - and when there is blame I should shoulder blame. But the credit must go to my colleague, Nitin Desai, and our tremendous team. They are the ones who have really done this job. I have never had the privilege of working with a better

team and I am just delighted that Nitin Desai is sitting up here beside me because he deserves fully all the appreciation that you have shown to me. And behind him is a very fine team that I am going to miss in the period ahead.

Mr. President, I would like to first to extend my deep gratitude to you as my President - President of this Conference - and as President of Brazil. It has been one of my life's great privileges to serve under you, and in the presence of the man under whom I serve regularly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to thank both of you for your leadership and your immensely important support, without which the result we celebrate here today would simply not have been possible.

Also, Mr. President, to you, as President of our host country, Brazil, I want to extend, along with all those who have registered their appreciation, my very special gratitude and that of all of our staff - our United Nations team that has worked under your leadership - for the absolutely superb job that you and your Government have done in preparing this Conference and in hosting it.

Governor Brizola of the State of Rio de Janeiro has been such a find host and supporter. And, I should say, the State of Sao Paolo has also supported very strongly the efforts of Rio, as have Mayor Alencar, the Mayor of Earth City, our host city during this period, and his people. I know that you have not had the chance of the kind of interaction that many of us would have liked but I am sure that you have enjoyed - as have our staff who have been here a little longer - the hospitality and vitality of the wonderful people of Rio. The cities of Sao Paolo and Curitiba, we should also remember, have successfully hosted two very important companion events to this Summit Conference. Many organizations of Brazil, public and private, have done so much, hosting events of various kinds - entertainment events and informational and educational events.

It has been a real privilege having our distinguished Rapporteur-General, the Foreign Minister of Algeria, as the guiding force in preparing the report of this meeting. And I am very proud to be sitting at the right hand of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to register my gratitude for his leadership and support.

Now I must not leave this recognition of those who have helped us - it is a list far too long to give you - without special mention of Miles Stoby, the Secretary of the Conference, and his tremendously helpful and important staff. And we owe an immense debt of gratitude to our partners throughout the United Nations system, the agencies and organizations and programmes of the United Nations, who have worked as real partners in this entire process and will continue to do so in its follow-up and implementation. And to the Conference Services staff, the interpreters, the translators, those who have been processing the documents, the Department of Public of Information, Protocol, Security.

And, of course, overall we have worked under the leadership of the Preparatory Committee in which all of you participated, which we, as a secretariat, have been so privileged to serve. It is the body that has really brought us to Rio. And, fortunately, we have enjoyed here as the Chairman of the Main Committee, Tommy Koh, the person who brought to a successful conclusion the work of the Preparatory Committee. The ship that has brought us here to Rio could not have had a better captain - a tough one sometimes, yes; relentless with that gavel; but the person without whom this historic voyage would not have been possible. And with him, some superb people - I shall not mention them all - Ambassador Kjellén, Dr. Bukar Shaib, Mr. Bedrich Moldan, and all the coordinators and facilitators who have enabled us to put this whole package together.

Intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations have contributed so much to our work, the Global Forum especially. You have read and heard about the pangs and pains of that enterprise, but with the support of President Collor and the State of Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paolo, the City of Rio, and a whole lot of others, the Forum has been a great success. We should congratulate them. I would like to see a congratulatory word of appreciation come from this Conference to the Global Forum because it has been the People's Summit that has complemented and interacted with us. And a particular word of gratitude to Chil Linder and Ashok Khosla of the International Facilitating Committee, who have presided over this so effectively.

A number of other events have occurred in relation to this - I shall not mention them all, but I do want to mention the Indigenous People's Conference, from which we heard here; the Sacred Earth Conference; UNEP's World Environment Day; and a whole series of related events that have contributed to this total Rio experience, which we should recognize.

I also finally want to recognize the many sources of support that we have had in our preparatory work in terms of financial and material support from Governments, from foundations, from other private-sector sources; they are listed in a special paper that is being circulated here today, and they all deserve our and your appreciation and acknowledgement. ECOFUND is a prime example and Ben Read set up their private-sector foundation that has enabled so many of our activities to be funded; the Committee to Promote the Pledge; Ted Kheel; Robert Rauschenberg, the artist - genius - who created our poster and has enabled us to realize so much from it; The Earth Summit Times and the Earth Summit Bulletin.

It is now time to reflect on what we have done here and what we are called upon to do when we leave. I will not make this moment of reflection too long, Mr. President, but I do believe I owe it to you and to this assembly to give you a few of my thoughts as to what we have done here, what we have not done and what we must now do.

Firstly, Mr. President, of course, you have carried out successfully the largest high-level intergovernmental conference ever held on our planet, and clearly the most important. Nothing less than the future of our planet has the home for our species and others has been the object of our work. We have had the right people here: the right Presidents, the right leaders of over 180 countries, more than 100 heads of State and Government; people - non-governmental organizations, women, youth, children, indigenous people, a whole series of representatives of virtually every sector of society; the media, more media than have ever watched and reported on any world conference, not just as bystanders and reporters but, in a very real sense, they have been participants in this process and they have permitted hundreds of millions of people around the world to engage in this process with us. We have not been alone here in Rio. We have had the people of the planet with us, watching us, participating and wondering what we are going to do here and after we leave here. Millions of them throughout the world have, as most of you have done, evidenced their interest through the medium of the Earth Pledge.

The world will not be the same after this Conference. Diplomacy, as one leading commentator has said, will not be the same after this Conference. The United Nations, I am sure, will not be the same after this Conference. And the prospects for our Earth cannot, must not, be the same. We came here to alter those prospects - we cannot allow those prospects to have come through this process without having been decisively altered and changed to a more promising and sustainable future. Certainly the environment and development dialogue will never be the same. People may criticize, they may be cynical, they may say that what we are asking is unrealistic, but they have to talk today about the problems of the developing countries, about poverty, about inequity, about terms of trade, about flows of resources to developing countries. Today you cannot talk about environment without putting all those issues into the equation. That itself, I think, is one of the most important results of the Conference and one of the most important reasons for hope - that the people of the world will be behind the leaders of the world, and indeed may be ahead of the leaders of the world, in ensuring the implementation of these results.

In specific terms, Governments have agreed on the Declaration of Rio, Agenda 21, including, of course, measures on financing its implementation, technology transfer, institutions, forestry principles, and a negotiating process has been mandated for a convention on desertification. Each of the conventions, on climate change and biodiversity, has been signed by more than 150 nations.

But, if we have reason for satisfaction at this, we certainly do not have reason for complacency. The real measure of our success will be in what happens when we leave here, in our own countries, in our own organizations, in our own lives. Will this Summit merely be a high point in our expressions of good intentions and enthusiasm and excitement, or will it really be the start of the process of fundamental change which we absolutely need.

That requires us to examine what we have not done here; very briefly, what have we not done?

We have a profoundly important Declaration, but it must continue to evolve towards what many of us hope will be an Earth Charter that could be finally sanctioned on the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations in 1995.

Agenda 21 - there has been, of course, some weakening of that document in the process, but it still stands as the most comprehensive, the most far-reaching and, if implemented, the most effective programme of international action ever sanctioned by the international community. It is not a final and complete action programme, and was not intended to be, but one which must continue to evolve. And, I have to say, we still do not have all the means, by any measure, to carry it through.

On finance, we have agreement, but not yet sufficient commitment. We have made a start on finance but we must recognize that we are a long way from meeting the needs for full implementation of Agenda 21.

On technology transfer, we have agreement. But the degree of full commitment to the basic principles of that agreement is still evolving and we cannot yet measure how deep that commitment is.

On institutions, we have made recommendations but only the General Assembly can act on them. And we know that how the world will view this Conference will, in the final analysis, be in the quality and effectiveness of the measures taken for its implementation.

On the convention on climate change, we have taken an historic first step, but only a first step - not a sufficient step. Stabilizing the gaseous composition of the atmosphere is clearly the most urgent problem we will face in the 1990s. Yet the agreement signed here sets neither targets nor timetables. You must now act quickly to bring the climate convention and its protocols in line with what scientists are telling us - that carbon emissions must be cut by at least 60 per cent just to put the global warming trend on hold. It is too late for protracted discussions and delay.

The Convention on Biological Diversity has not been accepted by at least one of the nations necessary for its full and effective implementation.

Most important, the underlying conditions that have produced the civilizational crisis that this Earth Summit is designed to address have not changed during our stay here in Rio. There are prospects for change but the patterns of production and consumption that give rise to so many of the global risks we are dealing with have continued. Factories continue to belch the same smoke, the same amounts of CO_2 are entering the air every day while we are here. The process of deterioration continues. Two hundred and sixty thousand children have been born each day while we were here - mostly poor, born into a world of hunger and deprivation - but all, rich and poor, facing an uncertain future. Every minute we have spent here, 28 people have died of hunger, 3 out of 4 were children under the age of five. If present birth and death rates continue, we will be struggling to accommodate 11 billion people on our planet within the next 40 years, in the lifetime of our children.

What must we do then about all of this. When we leave here we must surely build, on the foundations that we have established here, a new global partnership, the partnership needed to give effect to the decisions you have made here. Specifically, we must build further and quickly on the climate change convention, on the biodiversity convention, and move quickly in the negotiation of a desertification convention, continue to move negotiations towards a forestry regime that will be acceptable to all, and advance from the Rio Declaration to the Earth Charter. As to Agenda 21, it is up to you to go back to your countries - and many of you have encouragingly said that you intend this - and translate Agenda 21 and the decisions that you have taken at the global level into your own national policies and practices. And we must do this within the United Nations and at the regional level, at the local level and at the level of organizations and people.

On finance, we must translate the good indications given here by many into specific commitments. And I would hope that a good many of the larger donor countries, in particular, will do this by the time the General Assembly considers this item in its next session. We must also start the process of developing new sources of funding, because the steps we have taken still do not promise to meet the larger needs. We should consider, for example, new taxes, user charges, emission permits, citizen funding, all based on the polluter pays principle. I believe the amounts of money available simply from funds wasted in existing subsidies to non-environmentally-sound activities could alone provide all the money necessary as an indispensable investment in environmental security.

On technology transfer, we must begin immediately the job of capacity-building. And here we all welcome and support President Collor's initiative for the establishment in Rio de Janeiro of a world-class international development centre.

We must also expand the participatory process that has meant so much to us here - participation of people through non-governmental organizations in the implementation of Agenda 21, and indeed in the United Nations itself. I believe we need to review entirely the system of arrangements within the United Nations for greater participation of these organizations.

Finally, the remainder of this decade must be a time of transition which will truly move us on to the pathway to a new economy. The president of one of the great corporations of our world told the Preparatory Committee in an informal session at its last meeting in New York that the present economic system is simply not adequate. This does not mean it needs to be scrapped, but it needs to be radically revised to bring it into tune with eco-realities. We need to move to a real eco-nomic system.

The elimination of poverty has come through here as an important objective. But perhaps we are not really committed to making this a central objective for the whole world community as we move into the twenty-first century. The new world order must unite us all in a global partnership which, of course, has to respect national sovereignty as a basic tenet, but must also recognize the transcending sovereignty of nature, of our only one Earth.

The carrying capacity of our Earth can only sustain present and future generations if it is matched by the caring capacity of its people and its leaders. We must bring our species under control, for our own survival, for that of all life on our precious planet. Thanks to you, we now have a unique opportunity to do this. We have a basis for doing it in the decisions you have taken. We have the responsibility to start this road now. Our experience in Rio has been as historic and exhilarating as the road that brought us here. The road from Rio will be long, exciting, challenging. It will open a whole new era of promise and opportunity for our species if we change direction; but only if we start now.

I think you all will agree that we must change the course that we have been on. That is why we are here. The message from the children delivered as we opened this session this morning, gathered during the 15,000-mile journey of Gaia, and the voices of the children we heard here the other night as our session closed, all tell us why we are doing it - we are doing it for them. They have a right to expect it from us; they are going to hold us accountable for what we do after Rio about the decisions you have taken here.

You heard the other night from a fellow Canadian, a lovely young 12-year-old girl, Severn Suzuki. And I want to close these remarks by reminding you of what she said, which I believe every child on this planet will have in his or her heart as they look at what you have done here at Rio. She said:

> "Parents used to be able to comfort their children by saying 'Everything's going to be all right; we're doing the best we can and it's not the end of the world'. But you can't say that to us any more. Our planet is becoming worse and worse for all future children. Yet we only hear adults talking about local interests and national priorities. Are we even on your list of priorities? You grown-ups say you love us, but we challenge you to make your actions reflect your words."

We are all challenged, in the responsibilities we carry as we leave Rio, to make our actions reflect the words which have testified to our commitment here.